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RATNER GETS SITE

With MTA's blessing, Bruce leaves \$10 million deposit on rail yards

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The cash-strapped Metropolitan Transportation Authority on Wednesday accepted developer Bruce Ratner's \$100 million bid for the development rights over 8.5 acres of train yards at the cusp of Downtown Brooklyn.

The Ratner bid was less than half the value of the real estate determined by an MTA appraiser, and \$50 million less than a rival developer's bid.

And Ratner — who seeks to build four soaring skyscrapers and 13 other high-rises as well as an arena for the New Jersey Nets basketball team on a platform over the property and on contiguous land — only has to come up with a \$10 million down-payment. The balance of would be payable upon the project's approval by state authorities.

An MTA appraisal that estimated the land to be worth \$214.5 million was cast aside as the cash-strapped agency accepted the 10 percent down, roughly the cost of 10 subway cars or 20 city buses.

The bid by Ratner's development company, Forest City Ratner, also offers to renovate the Atlantic Avenue subway terminal, build temporary and rebuild permanent rail yards due to the need to move the Vanderbilt Yards at Atlantic Avenue for the project, and construct a pedestrian passageway from the subway to the new arena.

The approval was voted 10-1 by the MTA Board of Directors, which is largely appointed by Gov. George Pataki, a law school classmate of Bruce Ratner.

The vote followed hours of public testimony at the Sept. 14 hearing in Manhattan. See **RATNER** on page 12



Developer Bruce Ratner's bid of \$100 million for the rights to build part of his proposed Atlantic Yards project over the rail yards east of Flatbush Avenue was accepted by the MTA Tuesday. Ratner is required to put down just 10 percent, or \$10 million, until the full project is approved.

CB6 rips 'park'

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Following a public hearing on the proposed Brooklyn Bridge Park on Monday, Community Board 6 called the state's draft environmental impact study inadequate and asked for the planners to scale back planned private condominium development on the waterfront and provide more analysis of alternate active uses, transportation and parking.

Two days later, the full board ratified the motion drafted by its executive committee, calling for further review of the current plan — which depends for most of its revenue on the construction of 1,200 luxury condominium apartments — while still advocating "the concept of a park."

The bulk of the condos would be created in a 30-story tower and two lower buildings at the Atlantic Avenue end of the planned waterfront development, which abuts CB6. During last Monday's public hearing, Councilman David Yassky, whose district encompasses neighborhoods that would border the park — Brooklyn Heights and also a portion of DUMBO, Vinegar Hill and Cobble Hill — announced his unwavering support for the park plan, and discouraged constituents from seeking to delay the process of its construction any longer.

The Sept. 12 hearing, at Long Island College Hospital, was held to offer a platform to community members, many of whom have raised issue with the park's current design. The current plan, announced last December, presents a radically altered development — along the waterfront between Jay Street and Pier 6 at Atlantic Avenue — from the original plan, which had included public input gathered at numerous planning sessions held throughout 2001.

Over the course of two hours of testimony, it became clear that the majority of the 75-member audience had problems with the plan.

Hearing on Mon.

A public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Brooklyn Bridge Park plan is this Monday, Sept. 19, from 5 pm to 9 pm, at Polytechnic University's Diner Auditorium, 6 Metrotech Center in Downtown Brooklyn. Oral testimony is limited to 3 minutes. Written testimony may be submitted up to 30 days after the public hearing.

See **'PARK'** on page 2

Mayor heralds a new Coney

By Ajla Grozdanic
for The Brooklyn Papers

Coney Island will be restored to its former glory within the next few years, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Wednesday.

On the boardwalk at West 15th Street, the mayor announced a plan to turn the seaside neighborhood into a year-round tourist attraction, complete with a revamped amusement park and boardwalk, diverse new businesses and a more developed residential community.

He pledged an additional \$50 million in city funding on top of \$25 million previously promised. Borough President Mary Markowitz has committed \$7 million and Rep. Jerrold Nadler committed \$2.2 million in federal funds.

Councilman Dominic Recchia, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding Daniel Doctoroff, Coney Island Development Corporation (CIDC) Chairman Joshua Sirefman, Assemblywoman Adele Cohen, Community Board 13 and CIDC member Sheryl Robinson and Dick Zigun, the unofficial mayor of Coney Island and founder of the nonprofit Coney Island USA, which is dedicated to the restoration of the area.

See **CONEY** on page 13



Portable gasoline cans, like these lining the shelves at a Pep Boys at 354 Fourth Ave., are more popular lately due to an increase in gas siphoning, say experts.

WATCH YOUR TANK

Gas siphoning on the rise

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

One of the less-remembered trends of the 1970s is back and reportedly rampant on the streets of Brooklyn — gasoline siphoning.

In response to astronomical gas prices, a new breed of thieves has taken to stealing gas from unsuspecting car owners using a length of hose and a portable gas can, recalling a practice that gained no-

toriety during the gas crunches of the mid-'70s.

In New York City, where prices at \$3.27 a gallon on average over Labor Day weekend ranked as the nation's highest, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, the new petit larceny has also created a renewed demand in automotive stores for both locking gas caps and portable gasoline cans.

"When people are coming here, people are looking for the gas caps, the locking ones," said Flores August, assistant store manager for Strauss Discount Auto, at 527 Fourth Ave. in Park Slope. "They sold out since last week, and we are having a shortage at the warehouse in New Jersey," she said. "We have about 20 people coming to pick up gas caps next week."

In addition, August said, she has had people come in asking for gas siphoning devices like hoses and gas cans.

George Davis, a manager for another of Strauss' regional stores, on Atlantic Avenue in Prospect Heights, said he'd seen as much demand rising for the siphons and cans as for the locking caps.

"People are in demand for [caps] and gas cans," Davis said. "Normally, we would keep two [cans] on stock at a time, but the day the prices went up — that day and the next day — we went

See **GAS CAN** on page 5

Met'tech to the rescue

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The city is consolidating the call dispatch centers for emergency responders in all five boroughs — including fire, police and EMS — to a two-floor office space in Metrotech, The Brooklyn Papers has learned.

The mayor's office, the Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) all confirmed this week that responsibility for telephone dispatch respondents will be centralized in the Downtown Brooklyn office campus in line with

a new plan, adopted by the mayor and included in the citywide statement of needs for FY 2006-07.

The site, which will include renovation of the existing 47,000-square-foot Public Safety Answering Center (PCAS) will be at 11 Metrotech Plaza, and the new construction of a redundant Public Safety Answering Center (PSAC2) will require room enough for a 410,000-square-foot office space in "strategic location to PSAC1 at Metrotech Center, Brooklyn" according to the statement of needs, to create a "unified structure to improve emergency response ability and disaster recovery capacity."

Central to the project, which is part of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Emergency Communications Transformation Program, is the consolidation of the call-taking and dispatch facilities, the needs statement reported.

The project will drastically revamp the city's archaic 911 network, which currently suffers from overlapping or missed signals, and a resulting delayed response time.

Introduced by Bloomberg in early 2002, the plan has been stepped up since the August 2003 citywide

See **METTECH** on page 13



Rep. Anthony Weiner (right) outside his childhood home on Sixth Street in Park Slope, where he announced Wednesday he would not seek a run against Fernando Ferrer. Above, Mayor Mike Bloomberg stole some of the Democrats' primary day spotlight, partying at the Brooklyn Marriott Tuesday night despite facing no Republican challenger.



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DR. TEICHMAN

Ratner seeks to house Katrina exiles

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

With condominium apartments to spare, developer Bruce Ratner — who has bought out most of the loft owners within the footprint of his Atlantic Yards mega-development in Prospect Heights — may be seeking to use the empty dwellings to temporarily provide shelter for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

In two buildings, the last three apartment owners who have not sold out to Ratner say they received notices calling for an "emergency meeting of unit owners" to discuss plans to bring "victims of Hurricane Katrina for a period of one year."

Over the past two years, Ratner has negotiated the purchase of all but three units in the residential loft buildings at 24 Sixth Ave. and 636 Pacific St.

"Given the national emergency created by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the desperate temporary housing needs of its victims, the Board intends to issue the waiver," read an announcement sent to one of the condo owners. The waiver

refers to an agreement that calls for the owners to vote on whether units can be rented out.

While none of the remaining condo owners object to the idea — they uniformly praised the plan, even though it was put forth by Ratner — the point that people who lost their homes were replacing their lost homes was not lost on them, either.

"It's extraordinarily ironic that these people who have been driven from their homes by natural disaster would be moving into homes that have been vacated by people who have been driven from their homes by threat of eminent domain," Vince Bruns said with a laugh.

Bruns, who lives at 24 Sixth Ave., a 21-unit condominium building of which 19 units are owned by Ratner, said he and his last remaining neighbors learned through a voicemail message of the plans to relocate victims in his building.

"We got a phone call Wednesday night at 9 p.m. advising us there was a meeting the next day at 5 p.m. for the board of our building — and

EXCLUSIVE

Ratner is the board of our building — where they were going to be voting to make use of all the vacant units here for housing for people from Louisiana," said Bruns.

"They were going to do that vote, and answer any questions that interested people might have. The interested people being the two of us who own units."

Bruns said that at 3 p.m. on Thursday, "Forest City Ratner officials" called back to say, "Oh, never mind."

What he'd heard through another owner in the Atlantic Yards footprint, Bruns said, was that Forest City Ratner had been encouraged "by federal people" to first work through the proper hurricane relief channels.

Forest City Ratner officials did not return calls for comment. His building, he said, was still in great condition, and units were ready to move into, if people wanted them.

Bruns, who works at the Fulton Fish Market in Manhattan,

said he never sold to Ratner, even though he'd been subjected to the same pressures and threat of condemnation by use of eminent domain.

"I met with [Ratner's lawyer] at my apartment," said Bruns. "They said they were interested in discussing it, and I said, 'Look at this spot, I have a beautiful loft here, I love living here.'"

He said that at the time of the meeting, about a year ago, there was no sense of urgency, but the Ratner lawyer, Bruns said, cautioned, "You don't want to wait until you are going to be condemned."

He thinks he offers a good move.

"It's a great idea, they're people in need; we've got space going unused," Bruns said.

Workers in front of 636 Pacific St., the other condo building mostly owned by Ratner in the area footprint, whose last non-Ratner apartment owner, Daniel Goldstein, leads the anti-arena group develop-Don't Destroy

Brooklyn, said they had been doing work inside the building over the past two weeks.

And Goldstein said he, too, received notice of an "emergency meeting" of his condominium owners association, which was to have happened last Thursday.

"The meeting was cancelled but they are in my building working on fixing up some of the units, so it seems like a real thing," he said.

For the first time since plans for Atlantic Yards were announced in December 2003, Goldstein uttered kind words about Ratner, saying, "He's doing the right thing."

"It's a shame that so many of these units have been sitting here for so long," he added. "We hope if they come into this building they'll stay in this building a long, long, long time if they choose to."

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Armed mugging on Clermont Ave.

By Lilo Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A man was robbed at gunpoint while walking on Clermont Avenue after dark on Sept. 11, police said.

The victim, 28, told police he was headed from Willowby Street toward DeKalb Avenue just after 10 p.m., when suddenly a stranger appeared from behind him, flashed a black semi-automatic handgun and demanded, "Give me everything."

As he passed the victim, one of the men said, "Give me your money." The victim said he had no cash, but one of the thieves patted him down and grabbed his wallet. The victim said he thought one robber might have had a gun in his waistband, police said.

The thugs fled around 4 p.m. with his wallet, the man said. The billfold contained credit cards and a driver's license, but no cash, police said.

Cashed out
A man was robbed on Greene Avenue by a trio of thugs who may have had a gun, police said.

The victim, 32, told police he was coming from the Long Island Rail Road around 3:45 p.m. on Sept. 9. As he walked along Greene Avenue, he noticed three men standing on the corner of Clermont and Greene avenues.

As he passed the trio, one of the men said, "Give me your money." The victim said he had no cash, but one of the thieves patted him down and grabbed his wallet. The victim said he thought one robber might have had a gun in his waistband, police said.

The thugs fled around 4 p.m. with his wallet, the man said. The billfold contained credit cards and a driver's license, but no cash, police said.

Chevy, to go
A robber snatched a Chevrolet left running outside a fried chicken restaurant on the corner of Carlton and Myrtle avenues, police said.

The owner of the 2000 Impala sedan said he left the keys in the ignition and the car on when he went to pick up a food order at 11 p.m. on Sept. 12. He told police that as soon as he stepped from the vehicle, the thief jumped inside and sped off on Carlton Avenue toward Park Avenue.

Also lost was the victim's T-mobile cell phone, valued at \$200, police said.

KO'd in bar
A young man was assaulted when a drinker's dispute turned violent at a bar on Myrtle Avenue and Ryerson Street, police said.

The victim was knocked unconscious after an argument started sometime between 2 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. on Sept. 9, police said. The fight escalated when the suspect jumped the victim, punching him and knocking him to the ground, police said.

The victim was transported by paramedics to Brooklyn Hospital Center in serious, but stable, condition. The suspect fled northbound on Ryerson Street, police said.

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300-pound thug with a gun

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

An imposing brute bashed a woman in the face with a handgun after she refused to accompany him home from a Wiloughby Street bar after last call on Sept. 11, police said.

The victim said she met the 6-foot-3, 300-pound, muscular man while visiting the bar on Wiloughby and Lawrence streets, a block off Fulton Mall. She told police the man grew violent when she declined to go home with him after the bar closed, at 4 a.m. Enraged, the thug pulled a gun and smashed her in the face before he fled in a gold Chevrolet Suburban, police said.

No 'G'day'

An Australian tourist on a yearlong journey lost cameras and clothing valued at more than \$2,000 to knife-wielding robbers who followed him from the bank, police said.

The victim, 27, told police he was attacked around 11:15 p.m. on Sept. 4, while walking towards the Brooklyn Bridge on Adams Street, not far from Joralemon Street. The unlucky visitor said two strangers — a man and a woman — had followed him from a nearby ATM.

The thieves brushed past him, turned and pulled a knife, police said.

"Give me your bag," one of the thugs demanded, and the victim complied. His canvas tote was full of valuables, he told police, including an iPod digital music player, a JVC video camera, a digital camera and \$1,500 in clothing.

The victim told police he was leaving the next day for London and would be traveling continuously for a year.

Metrotech crime

Police say they captured a suspect in a Metrotech purse snatching and are searching for another thief — who robbed a police officer's car.

The suspect, 29, faces grand larceny charges after he allegedly snatched a woman's wallet in 1 Metrotech Center, near Lawrence Street, in Downtown Brooklyn. The victim, 19, said she was in the building's lobby around 4:25 p.m. on Sept. 6, when the suspect grabbed her purse, which contained credit cards and \$20 in cash. Police say they recovered the wallet when they arrested the suspect.

Earlier that day, someone stole

84/76 PRECINCTS

a police officer's pocketbook from the trunk of a car parked behind 4 Metrotech Center, near Bridge Street, police said. The officer — whose precinct assignment was not available at press time — said she left the car at 8 a.m., and when she returned at 2:30 p.m., the trunk was open and her purse was gone.

Orange St. heist

Robbers broke through a basement door to steal nearly \$5,500 in tools from an Orange Street home in Brooklyn Heights.

A construction worker said the house, near Willow Street, was secured at 5 p.m. on Sept. 6. When he arrived for work at 7:20 the next morning, he found the cellar door open and the tools missing.

The stolen goods included: two Skill saws, worth \$500, three battery-powered screw guns, valued at \$1,200, drills, Sanders, two DeWalt miter saws, worth \$800, a \$250 nail gun and a pair of tool bags, police said.

Table robbery

Burglars snatched nearly \$1,000 in cash and valuables from a table inside a Love Lane apartment near Henry Street while the resident slept in a nearby room, police said.

The victim told police the items were on the dining room table in his top-floor apartment, at noon on Sept. 8. At 9 a.m. the

next day, he noticed the goods were missing. Police said there were no signs of forced entry.

The items reported stolen included a \$300 Verizon cell phone, his driver's license and various credit cards, a \$400 iPod, expense checks and an ID from his job, and \$200 in cash.

Wrong-way

Always ride your bike with traffic and NEVER on the sidewalk. That's a lesson for both youngsters and teen muggers trying to make a quick getaway.

Police arrested a teenager who pulled a knife on a man to steal \$80 on Sept. 3, police said, after first stopping him for his reckless bicycle riding.

The victim, 26, was at the corner of Bond and Union streets, around 4:50 p.m., when the thug flashed the weapon. The robber threatened to stab him if he didn't turn over his cash, police said.

The victim gave up four \$20 bills and the thief fled on his bike. But officers from the 76th Precinct's anti-crime unit, patrolling the area, saw the suspect peddling the wrong way down a one-way street and then riding his bike on the sidewalk.

The officers stopped the teen and when police produced a description of the mugger, the anti-crime officers realized their reckless rider was probably their

suspect. The 17-year-old was arrested on robbery charges and police officers say they recovered both the cash and the knife.

Police Officer Daniel Bonilla made the arrest.

Truck haul

Robbers snatched nearly \$5,000 in goods — including a \$400 medical text — from a Toyota truck parked near the victim's Boerum Place home, police said.

The truck owner, 32, told police the vehicle was intact when he parked near State Street at 1 a.m. on Sept. 5. When he returned to the vehicle much later that morning he discovered the passenger-side window was broken and several items missing.

The victim reported the robbery shortly before 12 noon.

Police said the stolen items included a \$2,000 Richey bicycle, an \$1,800 Apple laptop, a computer bag valued at \$100 and 50 CDs worth a total of \$500. The thieves also took a copy of a medical text, which the victim valued at \$400.

Buck muggers

A young teen lost \$1 to a pair of knife-wielding robbers who attacked him in Red Hook on the afternoon of Sept. 2, police said.

The victim, 13, told police he was on Visitation Place, between Richards and Van Brunt streets, around 4:45 p.m., when two strangers approached. One man pulled a knife and demanded money and the second

thief snatched his cash.

But a police patrol spotted the mugging and the two officers chased the thugs on foot, catching them nearby. Police charged two teens, ages 17 and 15, with robbery. Police Officer Timothy Wolsko made the arrest.

Officers recovered the youngster's dollar bill.

Strong case

A Strong Place resident witnessed a robber use a broomstick to steal an expensive handbag and purse through the window of her Cobble Hill apartment, police said.

While the woman caught him in the act, police have not been able to locate the suspect.

The victim, 26, said the robber struck shortly after midnight on Sept. 10. The stranger used the stick to force open the window screen and remove the bugs from the woman's home, between Kane and DeGraw streets.

The victim valued at \$400.

Subway mugs

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Five people were mugged — all during daylight hours — in Downtown Brooklyn subway stations this week, including one at gunpoint, police said.

On Sept. 4, at 10:50 a.m., a woman lost her purse to a violent thief who attacked her at the Pacific Street station, near Fourth Avenue. The victim, 40, told police she was waiting for a southbound R train when the man punched her in the face and snatched her bag.

The woman described the mugger as a light-skinned Hispanic man, 5-foot-10 and 175 pounds, with short black hair, wearing blue pants, a dark-blue shirt and multi-colored sneakers. The bag contained \$510 in cash, her bank book, cell phone, keys and identification, police said.

On Sept. 5, at 6:40 p.m., a man was robbed at gunpoint as he entered the subway turnstile on the F line, at Smith and Bergen streets, police said. The victim turned this week, including one at gunpoint, police said.

The victim described his attacker as a black man, about 5-foot-9 and 150 pounds, with dark

skin and blond hair, wearing black pants, a black shirt and a blue stocking cap. The wallet held \$50 in cash, bank cards and the victim's Social Security card, police said.

On Sept. 7, at 5:05 p.m., a woman lost her necklace to a thief who followed her from the Court Street station, at Clinton and Montague streets. The victim, 18, said the man snatched the \$310 chain from her neck as she boarded a northbound R train.

On Sept. 8, at 2:45 p.m., a thief snatched a gold necklace from the neck of a woman on an R train arriving at the Lawrence Street station, near Wiloughby Street, police said. The victim, 23, of Massachusetts, told police the man grabbed the chain and fled into the subway tunnel as she stepped from the northbound train.

The gold necklace was worth \$200 and it held a jade and diamond pendant, valued at \$1,000, police said.

And on Sept. 11, at 9:07 a.m., a thief grabbed a small purse from a woman exiting the Borough Hall subway station, at Court and Joralemon streets. The victim, 25, said the pouch held \$60 in cash, various credit cards, her Brooklyn Law School ID and an iPod.

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turned at 10 pm to find it missing.

On Sept. 3, between 1 pm and 2:30 pm, robbers broke the window on a 2003 Nissan Maxima parked on Boerum Place near Dean Street. The owner, of Staten Island, said the thugs stole the car's headlights, valued at \$1,000, a \$300 iPod and his \$80 car connector and a Canon digital camera, valued at \$375.

On Sept. 5, between 2:15 pm and 3:15 p.m., thieves hit a Chevrolet Suburban parked on Livingston Street and Gallatin Place. The owner, of Staten Island, reported a \$450 cell phone and a laptop computer worth \$3,000 missing.

On Sept. 8, between 5:30 pm and 5:45 p.m., burglars snatched a laptop from an unlocked car parked on Third Avenue and State Street. The victim, 36, told police he left the \$2,000 computer on the floor near the passenger seat; when he returned the laptop and the vehicle registration were gone.

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Public Pl. cleanup gets a bit sticky



Assemblywoman Joan Millman (center) led Pest Control inspectors from the Department of Health to the Public Place site on Smith Street in response to numerous rodent complaints.

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Sticky asphalt tar underfoot on a scorching hot summer day is one thing, but the discovery of "wells" of the stuff underneath the banks and bed of the Gowanus Canal fetched a concerned and angry response from residents of Carroll Gardens, Red Hook and Gowanus.

Scientists from the city and state, and their hired consulting firms, answered a gamut of questions at an Aug. 8 Community Board 6 meeting at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church on Court Street at First Place, about exactly how much of the thick tar deposits still exist, how much would be removed, and what the likelihood would be of turning the area between Fifth and Huntington streets, from Smith Street to the canal, collectively known as "Public Place," into a public park.

"In places it does accumulate in our wells and goes down from 10 to 20 feet to 150 feet down," said David Terry, a scientist hired by the city. "There is a substantial amount of tar, and it does accumulate, and if we dug a big hole, 30 to 80 feet deep, you would see black, tarry, soil."

Terry, along with a group of other researchers, engineers and scientists, was hired to investigate four parcels of publicly owned land in the vicinity of what was once a Brooklyn

Union Gas plant, an early polluter of the canal.

On Aug. 8, officials of Keyspan, the company that took over Brooklyn Union, along with representatives of city and state health and environmental protection agencies, presented the findings thus far of a grand-scale investigative study at a public meeting held by Community Board 6. They hope to complete the investigation by the end of this year.

In the meantime, health specialist Dr. John Collins, who works for GEL, the firm hired to assess the contamination, assured community members that the findings on the four parcels of city-owned land were not harmful enough to merit concern, but could limit development of the site.

"We don't find tar shallower than 10 feet deep. If you can't contact it, because it's at least 10 feet down, you generally don't have contact with it as far as health is concerned," said Collins.

"Because humans don't touch it, and don't drink the groundwater, that's not an exposure pathway," he said.

Bette Stoltz, executive director of the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation and a Carroll Gardens resident, asked Collins, "If you lived on Fourth Street and you had a garden, would you unhesitatingly continue eating your tomatoes?"

Collins replied, "From the soil testing we've received, yes."

It was unlikely, Collins

said, that the city and state could, or would, remediate what was termed "deep contamination" of the four Public Place sites investigated. A more likely solution, he said, would be to asphalt it over before any new development goes on there.

Keyspan is helping to finance the investigations of the site.

"The investigation is incomplete," said Joseph Moloughney, an engineer from the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which is overseeing the site. Until a future use of the site is planned, any mitigation of environmental hazards cannot be determined, he said.

"The next step is to determine, for the parcels we've looked at, if [the Department of City Planning wants to zone it one thing or another]," said Moloughney, who pointed out that the investigation didn't go so far as to offer a remediation or mitigation solution.

First, he said, the DEC needs to know, "What is the next use of the property and what needs to be done to make it suitable for that?"

"We look at the bigger picture — is there something that needs to be done. This stuff goes down 100 feet, 150 feet. We're not going to dig that up. That should be clear. We're looking more at long-term management of what's left in that site."

The only reason they would remove everything is if the site needed an unrestricted use designation. Currently, the former Citizens Gas Works, which operated from the 1860s to the 1960s, has no official zoning designation since it predated the city codes and the city's 1975 seizure of the land left it unnecessary to create any.

More likely, he said, property could be developed with a deed restriction on work external to the building.

Buddy Scotto, a longtime community activist, said he hopes new housing for seniors is a consideration for development of the site.

"Relative to potential uses, clearly, obviously, how can anyone not want to find out what the needs of the community are? Clearly, we need affordable housing, we desperately are in need of senior citizens housing," he said.

But John Muir, the retired founder of the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment, said he'd like to see a reinvigorated effort to keep the parcels open for community use.

"I would like to see, certainly parcels 1 and 2, which are roughly bounded by the canal and Fifth and Smith streets, with the open space accessible to the public," Muir said. "We need to make a major park in a district that is a mile away from Prospect Park. That, I think, would be the best use."

No terrorist talk during Slope ice cream parlor case

By Mike Weissenstein
Associated Press

A Yemeni immigrant accused of illegally funneling \$2.9 million overseas through his Park Slope ice cream shop successfully fought to keep prosecutors from introducing evidence allegedly linking him to terrorist groups as his trial began Tuesday.

Abad Elfigeeh, 50, stands accused of transmitting money around the world without a license from a dozen bank accounts linked to his tiny storefront on Fifth Avenue near 11th Street in Park Slope.

Prosecutors have said the shop — which Elfigeeh no longer owns or operates — was used by a Yemeni cleric convicted earlier this year of a scheme to fund al-Qaeda and the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

But prosecutors cannot raise the topic of terrorism at Elfigeeh's trial unless the defense does first because they did not have enough evidence to charge Elfigeeh with a terrorism-related crime.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Pamela Chen made her first attempt to bring up terrorism after an opening statement by defense attorney Frank Hancock, who called Elfigeeh a law-abiding citizen who sent money overseas for Yemeni immigrants innocently seeking to support their families and invest in their native country.

After the jury left the courtroom, Chen asked U.S. District Judge Sterling Johnson Jr. to let her refute Hancock's claims by introducing what she called suspicious checks confiscated from Elfigeeh,

some bearing the words "jihad" and "mujahidin."

Others were made out to the Yemen-based Charitable Society for Social Welfare, which the FBI has described as a terrorist front group.

Johnson rejected her request but is expected to revisit the issue as the trial moves forward.

Elfigeeh first came to the attention of FBI anti-terrorist agents as they investigated Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hassan Al-Moayad, whom they eventually accused of funneling money from the United States to al-Qaeda and Hamas.

Al-Moayad was convicted of supporting and conspiring to support terrorism and sentenced to 75 years in prison in July.

Witnesses at al-Moayad's trial said he kept Elfigeeh's number in his phone book and called Elfigeeh someone he trusted to transfer money from the United States to Yemen.

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Mugged on way into home on Lincoln Place

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Papers

A masked gunman on a bike robbed a woman just steps from her Lincoln Place home.

The victim, 29, told police she had just walked home from a friend's house, on Carlton Avenue, when a stranger rode up behind her on a mountain bike, at 12:25 am on Sept. 10. The woman was trying to get inside her apartment, on Lincoln Place near Seventh Avenue, when the mugger — his face covered by a white bandana — thrust a black handgun in her face.

"Give me your purse or I'll shoot you," the thug demanded. The woman turned over her bag and the gunman peddled away, towards Seventh Avenue, police said.

Police said the woman's purse, a nylon bag valued at \$200, contained her driver's license, credit cards and U.S. Passport. Also in the bag was a Motorola cell phone, worth \$200, she said.

On guard

Police arrested a woman who they say bit a security guard who tried to stop her from stealing \$39 in beauty products from a Fifth Avenue drug store.

The guard, 45, told police that at 5 pm, on Sept. 9, he saw the suspect helping herself to facial cleanser, a manicure set and other items from the shelves of the chain store, near 10th Street. When he approached the woman, she bit into his right forearm, police said.

The guard was treated at New York Methodist Hospital for puncture wounds caused by the biting. Police apprehended a suspect, 22, and charged her with felony robbery. Police Officer Nydia Cooper made the arrest.

The items reported stolen, which were not recovered, included Avenzo foam facial cleanser, \$10 manicure set, a bottle of aromatic oil and a \$20 set of electric clippers, according to police.

Lost call

A bar on 11th Street was robbed after-hours by a burglar who broke in through the window, police said.

A 29-year-old employee of the pub, near Sixth Avenue, told

78/72 PRECINCTS

police the thief struck sometime between 1 am and 5 am on Sept. 8. The woman discovered a front window was broken and the cash box — containing \$400 — was missing. Nothing else was disturbed, police said.

Car crimes

Thieves stole three vehicles from Slope streets this week and broke into at least four other cars, according to police.

A 2005 Acura was snatched from Fifth Avenue, near Fourth Street, sometime between 10:30 pm on Sept. 6 and 9 am on Sept. 8.

A 1994 Chrysler Town and Country van, parked on Polhemus Place, near Carroll Street, at 6 pm on Sept. 7, was nowhere to be found by noon the next day, the North Carolina owner told police.

A 1991 Nissan Sentra, parked on Fourth Avenue near 12th Street, was stolen between 1 am and 11 am on Sept. 11.

On Sept. 5, it took thieves less than half an hour to snatch a purse from the front seat of an unlocked car parked on Pacific Street, near Fourth Avenue, police said. The victim, 26, said she left the car at 5:30 pm and when she returned at 8:30 pm, the bag was gone. It contained credit cards, a cell phone, personal ID — including her Social Security card — and \$73 in cash, police said.

On Sept. 6, robbers struck a 2005 Chevrolet Malibu parked on Seventh Street near Eighth Avenue, police said. The burglars broke a window between 4:30 pm and 6 pm and made off with an IBM laptop, valued at \$2,000, a \$500 Olym-

pus digital camera and paperwork.

On Sept. 9, it took thieves less than 15 minutes to snatch nearly \$1,000 in goods from a 2001 Ford Winstar on Fifth Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, police said. The victim, 41, said she parked and then went into a nearby drug store at 8:10 pm; when she returned at 8:25 pm, she found the lock on her van door had been jimmied. The burglars grabbed a \$20 purse that contained credit cards, her Social Security card and \$900 in cash, she told police.

Sometime between 5 pm on Sept. 9 and 10 am the next day, robbers removed the airbags from a 2002 Honda Civic on Third Street, between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, police said. The owner, 58, said a vent window in front was broken and the airbags, his car stereo and several CDs were gone.

Mayor's report card

By Sara Kugler

Associated Press

The mayor's annual report card boasts that crime and unemployment are low, but firefighters are slower in responding to fires and the city is battling a rat problem.

The city's bill of health is mixed: Fewer New Yorkers are smoking, but syphilis is on the rise.

Overall, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, the report released Monday paints a pretty picture.

"It's fair to say we have become — envy may be too strong, but maybe not — the envy of the rest of the country and the world," Bloomberg said.

The Mayor's Management Report reviewed fiscal year 2005, which ended June 30. Unemployment is at 5.5 percent, compared with 7.5 in 2001 after the Sept. 11 attack and 7.3 in June of 2004. Crime continues to fall, and the city ranks safest among the 10 largest U.S. cities.

New York may be safer, but it's also a nice place for rats to live.

The report showed about 31,600 pest control complaints, a 40-percent increase from the previous year, which the mayor attributes in part to the popularity of the city's 311 call center. The hotline was launched in 2003 and provides a starting place for all non-emergency municipal inquiries, complaints and comments. It logs about 40,000 calls daily.

Besides an uptick in rodent complaints, the

health department also performed more than 88,000 exterminations, 5 percent more than in 2004, Bloomberg's report said.

"There's no question that we have a rat problem... the city has put out traps and poison at record rates," Bloomberg said. "Whether we're really staying ahead of the rat population or not, nobody knows, because now it's just so much easier to report it."

Rat expert Bruce Colvin said eastern U.S. cities have chronic rat infestations because of aging infrastructure and growing human congestion, a problem that is exceedingly difficult to solve.

As for the Fire Department, firefighters' response time to structural fires rose by about 15 seconds, to 4 minutes and 31 seconds, a trend Bloomberg called "worrisome."

He said it was not related to the closing of six firehouses, which came before the period reviewed in the report, but was more likely due to a flap with the unions over whether firefighters could be held liable for traffic accidents on the way to fires. There were reports that the unions told members to slow down in protest.

"I hope that we have addressed those concerns and you'll see that come down," Bloomberg said.

The number of syphilis cases rose from 599 in fiscal 2004 to 646 in 2005. The health department's commissioner, Thomas Frieden, said that it mirrors a troubling international increase but that the rate of growth has slowed slightly.

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Residents: Rain causes Gowanus floods

By Ariella Cohen
for The Brooklyn Papers

While nowhere near the flooding in Louisiana and Mississippi caused by Hurricane Katrina, residents and merchants in the Gowanus neighborhood say when it rains near the canal, it pours — into their basements.

At the News and Comic Wholesalers, on Ninth Street alongside the Gowanus Canal, 50-pound bags of mason sand line the front of the brick storefront. Across the street, at a self-storage park, piles of 2-by-4s act as flood stiffs for the aluminum trailers. Down the block at A + A Sweetland Warehouse, on Eighth Street, workers just avoid the restrooms when it rains.

"We know the water will come up through the bathroom," said Sweetland employee Faisal Kholjeli. "We just wait — and clean up afterwards."

If it rains in Park Slope, it floods in Gowanus — for as long as anyone around here can remember that has been the rule to water around.

In 1848, the city rebuilt the Gowanus Creek into a mile-and-a-half industrial waterway that became the Gowanus Canal between South Brooklyn and the Upper New York Bay. As shipping rose and fell in Brooklyn, so did the fate of the asphalt-locked waterway. Over

the past two decades, millions in state and city funds have gone towards cleaning up the chemical-runoff polluted, purplish waterway solving sewage overflow problems there and reconstructing Ninth Street and its bridge across the canal.

Yet even after renovations on Ninth Street, the blocks around the Gowanus remain subject to floods from overflowing water mains and high canal tides. Now with more people moving into empty industrial lots and taking over the street's storefronts, the neighborhood is ready for city agencies to step in with a more permanent solution.

"We never sent a letter to the city or anything but we've been getting floods for years — that's why we keep our units up high," said Jose Cintron, a handyman at Self Storage on Ninth Street. "They need more sewers up here, or something, because it's going to ruin the street."

Thomas Chardavoyne, director of the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation, said they are looking at the long haul. "I am not so concerned about one flood as I am about the condition," he said.

This fall, the organization hopes to work with a large neighborhood coalition to initiate public conversation about increasing the capacity of sewers in the neighborhood. "Replacing a sewer line is a



Sandbags sit in front of the doors of the News and Comic Wholesalers on Ninth Street near the Gowanus Canal.

major capital expenditure and we need a broad constituency to even start talking to the city about it," he said.

Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community

Board 6, said he agrees with residents who believe that the periodic floods may have even gotten worse since the city improved Ninth Street.

Last month, Hammerman

wrote a letter to the city Department of Environmental Preservation (the agency that oversees the sewer system) asking if the city had increased the capacity of the sewer system when in 1999 the reconstruction of Ninth Street offered the chance.

"It could have been a failure on the city's part to plan the project appropriately," Hammerman said.

"At the time the work was done on Ninth Street, the neighborhood was partially residential and partially crack houses — they just didn't take care to do all that could have been done," said Eighth Street resident Kathryn Kruse.

"The city," Hammerman added, "probably should take action against the engineer who made the decision [not to increase the capacity of the sewers], if they can find him."

At this point, the DEP does not consider the Gowanus neighborhood particularly

troubled by flooding. The 12-inch catch basins that have drawn concern from neighbors are standard, an agency spokesman said, explaining that from Eighth Street, the wastewater is channeled down to Third Avenue, where it empties into a 72-inch basin.

After hearing complaints of overflow after a July rain storm, the DEP came out with a flusher truck and pumped hot water into the sewers with a high-pressure hose.

In another visit, the DEP paved over a 4-foot-wide by 6-foot-deep sinkhole — a collapse of asphalt generally caused by a leaking sewer line or water main — on Eighth Street between Third and Fourth avenues, after an orange traffic cone disappeared into the yawning roadway.

As for the floods, the agency is aware of the problem but does not see an easy solution. "The canal water backs up into the sewer system if it gets

a high tide during rain season," said DEP spokesman Ian Michaels. "It's a natural tide, and you get a flood."

"As far as we can see, nothing is structurally wrong," he added.

After a particularly heavy rainstorm in July, water pressure burst a main below Kathryn Kruse's house, submerging the ground below her basement in 3 feet of sewer water.

Before that incident, wastewater had jetted out of an open drain into an antique claw-foot bathtub she had been using as a storage chest for Christmas ornaments.

"In physics — water tries to find air and there we were, with an open drain," said Kruse.

Needless to say, the sewer-soaked angels never made it to the tree that year, but Kruse still believes they have gotten off easy compared to neighbors who have spent years sump-pumping and dry-mop-

ping after basement deluges.

"You would think this place was still a river if you saw it in the rain," said Mohammad Bashir, a News and Comic Wholesalers employee who spent days clearing the place after a deluge in July 2004 drowned some 30,000 copies of the New York Times and three computers in rank, brown sewer water.

"I almost got sick cleaning that water last time it flooded," he said.

"This July," Bashir added, "we got a little flood and the sandbags worked to keep out the water, but a little more rain and — poof — the whole business gone."

He points to the vacant shop next door to the warehouse. Above the boarded door is a sign that reads, "Watermark Inc. Silk Screen."

"They never even opened up the shop after the flood," said Bashir, and by September they were gone.

GAS CAN...

Continued from page 1

out of stock every time we set them out.

"One guy said he had a couple of trucks, and he bought like, four cans. He said he had to, 'just in case he couldn't get to the gas station,'" said Davis. "Siphons we normally carry maybe like one in stock, normally siphons don't sell, but this week we sold probably, well, the one we had, and when [the order] came back it was sold that very same day."

"Yesterday, we got three or four and I know we already sold one. I don't normally sell them."

USA Today, in its Aug. 25 edition, reported that Pep Boys, a nationwide auto parts store, said locking gas cap sales were up 5 percent compared to the same time last year.

"Our sales have increased," agreed Larry Travers, manager of the Pep Boys at 354 Fourth Ave., though he would not disclose specifics for the store.

The USA Today report also noted that the nation's largest auto parts chain, AutoZone, sold more than 10,000 locking gas

caps in that week, spiking more than 60 percent higher sales than an average week.

"Most of what we had was sold the first day, and whatever we get in, it sells out that same day," said Thomas, a store manager for an AutoZone in the Flatlands section of Brooklyn, who declined to give his last name. He said the only AutoZone that had any locking caps in the area as of last week was on 86th Street in Bay Ridge, where employees declined to comment for this article.

A manager at a Strauss auto shop in Bensonhurst said their inventory was wiped out of the locking caps, which can cost up to \$30 each, still 10 to 15 dollars less than the cost of filling the gas tank of a sports car.

"Our warehouses are completely wiped out because of these gas prices," said Yasser Hatab, the store manager, who said a close friend had been the victim of siphoning.

"My best friend, he got to his car and the gas tank was empty, and he'd filled it up the night before — the [gas tank] door was

closed — it was just one of those flip-open and flip-closed tanks," he said.

While his store isn't selling siphons, he said he bought a locking cap for himself.

"I bought it just when the gas prices went up, knowing that the community isn't very safe," Hatab said.

Detective Brian Sessa, a spokesman for the NYPD, said gas siphoning is hard to track, as the department doesn't keep statistics on specific petty larcenies. To apprehend a suspect, he said, "You'd actually have to see somebody doing it."

He compared the crime much to that of a wallet theft — unless there is a witness who can describe the thief, it is reported as missing property.

"We wouldn't take a report unless they witnessed someone siphoning from a gas tank," he said, but encouraged those who might witness the siphoning of another person's gas tank to report it to police.

The locked fuel cap, an invention of the 1970s, was during the Great Depression to deter gasoline thefts, according to the Web site of Stant, a major supplier of the caps, comes with a customized key that is required to open up the lock and then unscrew the cap.

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BCAT Program Guide — What's on Brooklyn Community Access Television

Stephen Powell: 99% Inspiration
By Leonard Jacobs

The first thing that captures your attention about Stephen Powell, executive producer of *Inspirational Vibes* since 1997, is his resonant, soothing baritone, one that seems born for radio. It has a calming quality, a quiet peace that may help to explain why his half-hour program, devoted to "positive-spirited music videos," has become such a popular staple of Brooklyn Community Access Television's lineup.

"Life can be hell in itself," says Powell, by way of explaining how his music video show differs from those that air on, for example, VH1 and BET. "I just feel that we all need some type of outlet, a break from all our responsibilities and concerns. So my mission, and the image that I keep in my mind, is basically for someone to be in front of the television, consuming something positive for a change. Something that maybe can remove that person from their daily concerns and, for a half-hour, gives them a kind of safe haven. You never know what somebody's going through, so I try to pick some good music — music that can maybe send your mind in a different and more positive direction for awhile — and I put that on the air."

Coming from a run-of-the-mill VJ, this kind of statement might seem saccharine or vanilla, but neither is remotely true to Powell. In fact, underneath his super-smooth tones lies a fellow so genuinely modest that it takes some time for him to admit that creating a 30-minute video program is much, much harder in terms of planning and logistics than it might seem to the everyday viewer. For one thing, permission must be obtained from every label, which is where his long-time relationship with the music industry has come to serve Powell's program well. From a long stint working in back-office music clearance to his high-profile gig as station

voice announcer for CD-101.9 FM, Powell's tight-knit and especially generous network of industry contacts has been almost uniformly supportive of *Inspirational Vibes*.

"Since BCAT is 'community television,' many record labels, especially gospel labels, see this as a promotional opportunity, so I'm not usually concerned with royalties. In the letters I send out requesting music and permission, I request 'gratis' permission, meaning no fee, and the labels have been hugely cooperative in that."

Gospel is, to be sure, just one of perhaps a dozen different music styles that Powell offers. From hip-hop, R&B and new and classic reggae to mainstream and alternative forms of pop and jazz, his criteria begins and ends at number one: "As long as there's a message in the music, an inspiration in it, they get aired on the show." So, he goes on, "If Norah Jones comes out with something new, I play it," and that pledge also goes for a dizzying array of artists—from DMX, Lenny Kravitz, Jill Scott, Stillness of Heart, Andre Crouch, the Christian rock band Switchfoot and the positive-spirited hip-hop duo Grits to Kelly Clarkson, Nali-Z, Sade, and even, now and then, Celine Dion.

As sole producer and editor of *Inspirational Vibes*, Powell has to stay on a tight schedule, but he is fortunate that sometimes the label-permission process actually works in his favor. "I send my biweekly

playlist to the labels—Columbia, Epic, Motown, and so forth—but sometimes a label has a new artist that's right, inspirationally speaking, for the show, so they send videos to me." With *Inspirational Vibes* now in its fifth year of cablecasting weekly, Powell finds such industry cross-pollination keeps his energy high.

"It takes perseverance to produce anything when you work 9-to-5," concludes Powell, who during the week works as Wall Street administrator. "My TV experience has been successful as a result of the editing classes at BCAT; I think that's why I produce my show myself—you really learn how to become self-sufficient, hands-on. Even computer problems are a blessing because it's just one more roadblock to find your way around. See, when you're producing, you say, 'This is crazy' and 'How the heck am I going to do this?' What keeps me going is feedback. When somebody says, 'Wow, I escape for a half-hour when you're on the air,' I know this is what I'm meant to do, because I know the power of inspirational music has the power to change the world."

Inspirational Vibes can be seen Sundays at 9:30pm on Time Warner Cable channel 35 and Cablevision channel 68 and online at www.bcat.tv/bcat.

FIND THIS WEEK'S COMPLETE BCAT PROGRAM GUIDE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

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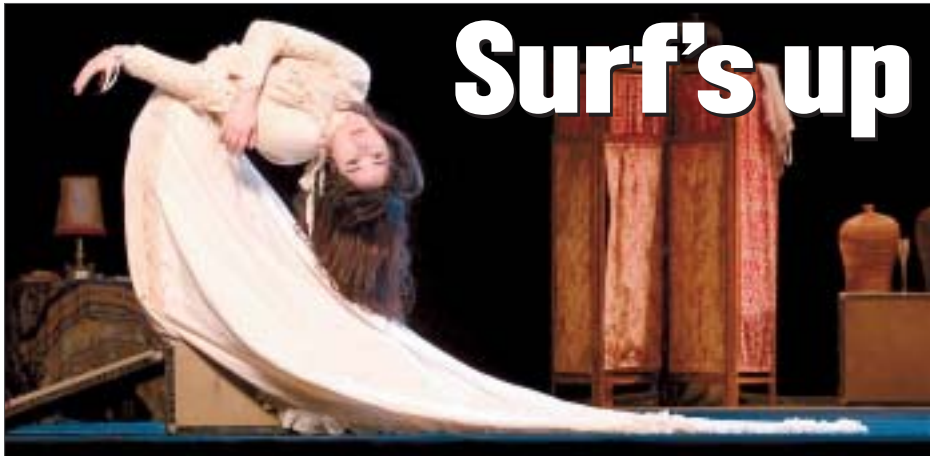
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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

September 17, 2005



'Next Wave' hits BAM with dance, theater, music, film & more

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

The Brooklyn Academy of Music raises the curtain on its "2005 Next Wave Festival" on Oct. 4, with a play by the Handspring and Sogolon puppet companies, "Tall Horse," at the BAM Harvey Theater and Philip Glass' composition "Orion" at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House.

BAM Executive Producer Joseph Melillo says the two productions exemplify what the 2005 Next Wave Festival is all about—collaboration.

"Tall Horse" is an intra-Africa collaboration with Handspring from Cape Town, South Africa, and Sogolon Puppet Company, which is based in Mali. That's a rarity and a distinction," said Melillo, about the play, which continues Oct. 8-9.

"It's not puppetry solely; it's theater that happens to use puppetry in the course of telling this true story of how the Pasha of Egypt gives King Charles X of France a raffle," said Melillo.

Even the operation of the 16-foot giraffe is a collaborative effort, as two men on stilts work the puppet's twitching ears and tail and swooping 6-foot-long neck.

In "Orion," created for the 2004 Summer Olympics, the Philip Glass Ensemble performs with "virtuoso musicians from the four corners of the world," said Melillo, who attended the world premiere in Athens.

"What it was teaching me is that artists of all cultures can communicate with each other, and I wanted New York City to have that particular experience, because it's thrilling to see what happens when all of the artists come together," said Melillo.

"Orion," conducted by Michael Riesman, will be performed again Oct. 6-8.

More works by Glass will be performed in November. Former Brooklyn Philharmonic music director Dennis Russell Davies returns to BAM to conduct the world premiere of Glass' *Symphony No. 8* and *Symphony No. 6* ("Plutonian Ode"), with text by Allen Ginsberg, on Nov. 2, Nov. 4 and Nov. 5 at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House.

"Among conductors and American composers [Davies and Glass] have a very special relationship," explained Melillo. "[Davies] has



The tide is high: Highlights of the "2005 Next Wave Festival," (clockwise from top) are the U.S. premiere of La Compagnie du Hanenoten's "Bright Abyss"; The National Ballet of China's adaptation of Zhang Yimou's film "Raise the Red Lantern" to dance; and French movie star Isabelle Huppert in "4.48 Psychose."

conducted most of the premieres of Philip's symphonic scores. That's a very special collaboration."

French movie star Isabelle Huppert (Jean-Luc Godard's "Every Man for Himself" and "Passion" and Claude Chabrol's "Vieillesse Noire," "The Story of Women" and "Madame Bovary") stars in the late Sarah Kane's last play, "Psychose 4.48," directed by Claude Regy. Performed in French with English subtitles, Melillo promises that this collaboration between director and actor is a marked departure from The Royal Court Theatre's production of "4.48 Psychosis," which was performed at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO last October.

"Psychose 4.48," which will be performed Oct. 19-23 and Oct. 25-30 at the BAM Harvey Theater, features the lone Huppert as the character experiencing psychological despair and collapse.

"Isabelle is a monumental film star and what New York doesn't know is that she is an equally monumental stage actress," explained Melillo. "[At St. Ann's], it was a group of actors who interpreted the text. Here you have one actress, so I think you feel closer to Sarah Kane the person. With Isabelle interpreting the work, there's a different kind of intensity."

Film buffs and balletomanes alike will be intrigued by the collaboration between the Na-

tional Ballet of China and filmmaker Zhang Yimou for an adaptation of Yimou's movie, "Raise the Red Lantern," for a ballet. Directed by Yimou ("Hero," "House of Flying Daggers," "Ju Dou"), this lavish production, which includes dancers bursting through paper screens in each performance, will hit the stage of the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House Oct. 11-15.

Choreographer Wally Cardona, of Windsor Terrace, created his dance "Everywhere" in collaboration with Joanna Kotze, Kathryn Sanders and Matthew Winfield. "Everywhere" will be performed Dec. 13 and Dec. 15-17 at the BAM Harvey Theater against music composed by Phil Kline—which will play from 100 boom boxes on the stage and by the live string quartet Ethel.

Additional productions in the "Next Wave Festival" include: Michael Thalheimer's abridged version of Goethe's *Eppurim Lessing's* play "Emilia Galotti" at the BAM Harvey Theater Oct. 12-15; Brazilian techno-samba pop diva Daniela Mercury performing songs from her Latin Grammy-nominated CD "Carnaval Eletrônico" at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House on Oct. 22; "Lecuna" and "Onqoto," performed by contemporary dance troupe Grupo Corpo at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House Oct. 25 and Oct. 27-29; Propeller's all-male production of

THEATER

The Brooklyn Academy of Music's "2005 Next Wave Festival" runs Oct. 4-Dec. 17 in several theaters. Single tickets are on sale now. For more information about the festival, which also includes film series at BAM Rose Cinemas, live music at the BAMcave and art on display throughout BAM, visit the Web site at www.bam.org. To order tickets, call (718) 636-4100.

William Shakespeare's play "The Winter's Tale," directed by Edward Hall at the BAM Harvey Theater Nov. 2-6; "Les Noces" and "Petruška" danced by the Italian troupe, Compagnia Aterballetto Nov. 8 and Nov. 10-12 at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House; James Thiérré's wuxvauz cinquième show, "Bright Abyss," performed by La Compagnie du Hanenoten Nov. 9-13 at the BAM Harvey Theater; Batsheva Dance Company's "Mamootot" at the Mark Morris Dance Center Nov. 15-20, Nov. 22-23 and Nov. 25-27; The Builders Association and dbox's multi-media theatrical collaboration, "Super Vision" Nov. 29-Dec. 3 at the BAM Harvey Theater; and choreographer Sasha Waltz's "Impromptu," which will be performed Dec. 6, Dec. 8-10 at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House.

At the "Next Wave" festival there are also opportunities to get behind-the-scenes glimpses of the productions with BAMDialogues with some of the artists and even a master class with Batsheva Dance Company and choreographer Sasha Waltz's vocalists and contemporary music ensemble muskFabrik.

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FESTIVAL

Go hungry



The focus of this year's Atlantic Antic street festival—Sunday, Sept. 25, from 10 am to 6 pm—is food, so bring your appetite for the trek along Atlantic Avenue between Hicks Street and Fourth Avenue.

"The avenue currently hosts some of the city's most promising new restaurants, making it a contender for top restaurant row in Brooklyn, yet it still retains many of the Arabic restaurants and shops that have become a staple for generations of New Yorkers," said Ian Kelley, president of the Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation, which produces the event.

In addition to sampling the culinary diversity of Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill and Boerum Hill, fest-goers can enjoy live entertainment at five stages that will feature more than 30 acts. The Ponys (pictured) will take the Rock 'n' Soul Stage (organized by the Magnetic Field bar, between Henry and Hicks streets) at 3:30 pm, while other performers will appear outside Pete's Waterfront Ale House, where they'll have a German-style beer garden (at Clinton Street), the American-Arabic Stage (at Court Street), the Last Exit Hoe Down Stage (at Clinton Street) and the Downtown Atlantic and Musician's General Store stage (at Hoyt Street).

There's also lots for kids to enjoy, including pony rides from the Black Cowboys and carnival rides.

The festival will be held rain or shine. For more information, call (718) 875-8993 or visit the Web site www.atlanticave.org.

—Lisa J. Curtis

MUSIC

Sax you up

Composer and sax player Marcus Strickland (pictured) will kick off the new "Brooklyn Jazz Series" at Water Street Restaurant & Lounge on Sept. 18.

The program begins at noon, followed by performances by Strickland's quartet, the Rudehsh Mahanappa Quartet and Mark Turner Trio and culminates with a jam session at 5:45 pm.

Although admission is free for this concert, donations to the Red Cross (for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina) are suggested.

The "Brooklyn Jazz Series" continues on Wednesdays at 8 pm from Sept. 21 through Nov. 23 at Water Street Restaurant & Lounge (66 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in DUMBO).

For more information about the lineup of upcoming concerts, or to take part in the post-concert jam sessions at each Wednesday's performance, call (718) 625-9352 or visit the Web site www.brooklynjazzseries.com. Admission to the concerts is \$5 and up.

—Lisa J. Curtis

EVENT

Sail away

The Wildlife Conservation Society will host "Dinner on the Sea," a benefit for the New York Aquarium, on Thursday, Sept. 22. The dinner and silent auction raises funds for the Aquarium's wildlife preservation research and education programs.

The event will be held on the glass-top Bateau New York, which sets sail from Chelsea Piers at 7 pm. Cocktails on the boat's deck begin at 6 pm, and dinner immediately follows departure.

In past years, this annual event has raised \$175,000. The ticket is also this year's goal, according to Michelle Kahn, development officer of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

"Dinner on the Sea" also serves to honor the artist Wyland, who will receive the 2005 Conservation Award. The award honors the achievements of individuals who work toward wildlife conservation. Wyland's wall murals (a detail of his "Radiant Reef" is pictured) depicting the underwater world have been painted on walls and bridges in eight countries, and his non-profit organization, the Wyland Foundation, supports aquatic education and conservation.

Tickets to "Dinner on the Sea" range from \$350 to \$10,000. The boat departs from pier 61, on the Hudson River at 23rd Street. For more information, call Kahn at (718) 220-5090.

—Lee Cabot Walker

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Neighborhood
Dining Guide

This week: WINDSOR TERRACE/ KENSINGTON

Clemen's

252 Prospect Park West at Prospect Avenue, (718) 768-0909 (Cash only) Entrees: \$5-\$7.88. Billing itself as a "taco and burrito place," Clemen's actually offers a large array of Mexican choices. A long list of appetizers precedes a varied menu of salads, tacos, burritos and fajitas, many of which have a build-your-own quality. With a dozen meat, vegetable and seafood filling options, the combinations are practically endless. Many vegetarian entrees are available, like Clemen's burrito, stuffed with rice, beans, pico de gallo, sour cream or non-fat yogurt and chile relleno. Smoothies are also available. Eat in the breezy wood-and-stainless-steel dining room or order takeout or delivery. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Crossroads Cafe

1241A Prospect Ave. at Reeve Place, (718) 972-1852. (Cash only) Pasty: \$1-\$2.25; sandwiches and salads: \$5.95-\$7.95. Just a few blocks from Prospect Park, this small, windproof cafe offers neighborhood dwellers a place to read or type while they caffeinate. "We're wired up," says owner Suzanne Meenan about the suite-covered seats and dark wooden tables also offer a cozy environment for a snack or light lunch, many varieties of sweet and savory pastries, salads, sandwiches and "high-end" juices are served daily and takeout is available, too. Open 6:30 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 am to 6 pm, on weekends.

Da Vincenzo

256 Prospect Park West at Prospect Avenue, (718) 369-3390 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14.95-\$26. *

Brooklynites seat themselves in this wood-furnished dining room under romantic lighting or in the sidewalk cafe to taste traditional Italian fare. Offering, in owner Nat Nazale's words, "two-thirds northern Italian and a third southern Italian," chef Chris DeCicco's menu ups dishes like Chicken sea bass baked in slices of potato, and swordfish "Da Vincenzo," sautéed with tomatoes, capers, onions and olives. Simple pasta preparations and rich desserts are also available. Now open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Da Vincenzo will be open for lunch beginning Sept. 20, and will be open for brunch on Sundays from 9 am to 3 pm beginning Sept. 25. Closed Mondays.

Elora's Restaurant

272 Prospect Park West at 17th Street, (718) 788-4190 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5-\$37.95.

Spanish-speaking locals gather at this sit-down restaurant to feast on over-stuffed Cuban sandwiches and sizzling fajitas amid the romantic plucking of music. The dark decor, adorned with several beaded sombreros and dark-wood paneling, recalls the austere furnishings of a Western saloon. But don't let its simplicity fool you. The menu offers a selection of biblical proportions representing a variety of Latin American cuisines, as well as offering live lobster and Iberian seafood dishes, prepared by chef Jose Nunez. Margarita happy hour is from 4 pm to 6 pm, Monday through Thursday; or get really happy on Fridays, starting at noon. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Hot Diggity Dog

263 Prospect Park West at Prospect Avenue, (718) 499-0008 (Cash only) Entrees: \$1.50-\$6.50. *

Hot Diggity Dog specializes in serving the perfect frankfurter. Owner Billy Grillas uses only Boars Head all-natural beef dogs and personally makes all the toppings. Popular dogs include the "Brooklyn" (mustard, sauerkraut and house-made onions) and the "Windsor Weenie" (a dog wrapped in pastrami and topped with sauerkraut, Swiss cheese and mustard). Other dishes include "Bibb" (cheese steak and house-made veggie, turkey and chicken burgers). On weekday morn-

* = Full review available at

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papers.com**

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



Dogs with all the fun at Hot Diggity Dog.

ings, breakfast offerings like eggs, egg sandwiches, pancakes and French toast are available. Dining is stand-and-eat. Open weekdays, from 7 am to 9 pm; Saturdays, from 11 am to 9 pm; and Sundays, from 11 am to 8 pm. Free delivery in the neighborhood.

Rhythm & Boogie

1674 10th Ave. at Prospect Avenue, (718) 788-9699 (AmEx, MC, Visa, Disc) Entrees: \$9.95-\$18.95. *

Chef Dennis McQuillen whips up good old American comfort food, including the popular pulled-pork sandwich and the Thursday special, a sauerbraten pot roast, marinated for four days. The Rhythm & Boogie burger, a plump yet manageable handful of richly flavored, grilled meat is served on an English muffin and accompanied by crisp and salty cheddar fries. During the day, large case-ments illuminate the sponge-painted gold walls and the deep-green, Irish-proud color scheme. Happy hours, which include \$1 cent chicken wings, are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3 pm to 6 pm, and all-day Mondays and Wednesdays. Lunch and dinner are served daily, with brunch offered from noon until 3 pm on the weekend.

Sushi Yu

214 Prospect Park West at 16th Street, (718) 652-8688 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.95-\$59.95 (for the "Love Boat" — the chef's combo platter of sushi, sashimi maki and hand roll).

"There are moments of genius in Jimmy Liu's cooking," writes GO Brooklyn dining critic Tiny Barry about the chef of this elegant and unassuming sushi bar. The restaurant, owned by the chef's brother Michael Liu, specializes in sushi rolls and offers an assortment of noodle and teriyaki dishes. In the winter, try the "Christmas Roll," with tuna, yellow tail, salmon, cucumber, avocado, and mango. (All rolls.) Lunch specials served from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. Open Monday through Thursday, from 11:30 am to 10:30 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, from 11:30 am to 11:30 pm; and Sundays, from 11:30 am to 11:30 pm. Delivery available.

Tookata Thai Grill

268 Prospect Park West at 17th Street, (718) 369-2472. (Cash only) Entrees: \$7.75-\$13.

The blond wooden interior and Buddha statues lend a tranquil ambience to this narrow, sparsely furnished restaurant. Try a variety of Thai curries with your choice of vegetables, tofu, chicken, beef or shrimp. The "Sangkhapha pumpkin custard" dessert specialty. Opened in August 2004, Tookata offers lunch specials for \$5.50 from 11:30 am to 4 pm daily. Open weekdays, from 11:30 am to 10:30 pm; and weekends, from 11:30 am to 10:45 pm. Delivery available.

Windsor Cafe

220 Prospect Park West at Windsor Place, (718) 788-9700 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.95-\$16.95.

If it's 4 o'clock in the afternoon and you suddenly get a craving for Belgian waffles, head over to the Windsor Cafe where the griddle stays hot all day. The dine-in menu will satisfy any appetite. Not hungry for breakfast? The lunch menu provides an ample array of sandwich and wrap options, including specialty salads, panini and "diet" delights. "The heartier appetite will be satisfied by the meat loaf, pulled turkey pork chops with applesauce, or steak tips served over rice with mushrooms and onions. For dessert, create your own sundae or try Windsor's famous cream cheese cake. Daily specials. Open Sunday to Thursday from 6 am to 10 pm, Friday to Saturday from 6 am to 11 pm. Free delivery.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. List rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via email at Curtis@brooklynpapers.com.



Play it loud

Joya owners bring winning, if noisy, Thai formula to Slope

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

After taking two steps into Song, the Thai restaurant on Fifth Avenue, I wanted to back out of the door. The din of the place was deafening.

Like Joya, the popular Thai eatery in Carroll Gardens owned by Andrew Jerro and Ariel Aparicio, Song throbs with music. The bar and large dining area are outfitted in industrial chic: a hard cement floor, high ceilings with exposed pipes, and seating without pillows, which are all great surfaces to transmit sound. This kind of club-as-restaurant ambience obviously appeals to diners; since its opening in January Song has been doing a (forgive the pun) booming business.

To the eatery's credit, the customers sitting in the dining area seem happy to shout to one another. Even a table of two couples in their 60s passed dishes and yelled amiably.

Maybe it's me, or I, should say, us.

I'm soft spoken, and when my husband is relaxed, his voice dips so low I sometimes wonder if there's sound coming from his lips at all. So, we can't "do" loud places.

Song does provide an alternative for the volume-challenged — and it's a nice one. Behind the restaurant there's a large, outdoor area with tables, and next to that is something I haven't seen anywhere: a patch of lawn with on-the-ground table-tops and mod floral pillows for seating.

After their meal, some of the diners cutting close to nature sprawled on the grass; a few children meandered about enjoying the novelty and not bothering anyone.

Thankfully, no music is piped outdoors, so, aside from laughter and the hum of conversation, it is blessedly quiet.

There are two positives about Song that take some of the sting out of its indoor noise assault: The portions are large enough for two (and sometimes more) to share, and nothing on the regular menu is over \$8.

DINING

Song (295 Fifth Ave., at Second Street in Park Slope) accepts cash only. Entrees: \$6.95-\$7.95. The restaurant serves dinner daily. For more information, call (718) 965-1108.



Pillow talk: Song, the new restaurant in Park Slope, features outdoor seating on cushions in the backyard (top left). The Thai menu includes jumbo shrimp and basil (above).

No credit cards are accepted, but with prices like that, forking out the few dollars for the meal shouldn't be an issue.

In such a stylish setting, you'd expect a suave house cocktail. Song's drink is the mango martini, a lovely looking, frothy concoction served in a short-stemmed glass.

While the potion had a delicate mango flavor, it typified the problem I was having with much of Song's cuisine: it was too sweet.

A touch of oversweetness marred an otherwise terrific version of "Tom Ka Gai," the coconut soup with chicken and mushrooms. The broth was creamy and loaded with tender slices of white meat and big chunks of button mushrooms. Even a heaping appetizer of fresh but slightly gritty mussels, strewn with peppers of crisp green and red, could have used more acidity to balance a too sweet garlic sauce and a little less salt.

While it leaned toward the sweet side, the rich coconut curry sauce that enveloped pieces of chicken breast in "kang panang gai," was loaded with basil leaves, perfumed with the gingery bite of "galangal" (a root similar to

ginger but more intense) and packed a sneaky hit of heat from Thai chilies.

Fresh, large shrimp, sautéed with mushrooms, chunks of peppers, and bits of soft cabbage, came alive in a sprightly fresh ginger sauce in the "koong pad king."

I can't fault a platter of big, chewy noodles topped with beef, "pad see yue." The meat was assertive enough to stand up to a pungent brown sauce laced with pleasantly bitter Chinese broccoli.

Big eaters at a small table add up to messy dining, which leads me to my one criticism about the service. It's important that the dining surface be wiped intermittently, especially when dishes are being shared.

Our busboy whisked away our appetizers, leaving a smattering of sauce on the table. He returned with the entrees, plunked them onto the spills and walked away. After we'd passed the plates back and forth, their dirty, oily bottoms left the table's top looking like a crime scene.

Still, Song's great food — and prices — make up for its acoustic deficiencies. Maybe next time we'll bring some earplugs.

People's choice

Cibo e Gente is Italian for "food for the people." Because none of its entrees are priced over \$14.95, Cibo e Gente is an appropriate name for this new Smith Street trattoria. It has prices "the people" can afford.

If it were up to Andrea Borio, who was the executive chef for three of the owners' Manhattan restaurants: Boom, Via Della Pace and Via Della Zoccollette, before leading the kitchen here, he'd add the word "realita," or real, to the restaurant's name.

"It's real food," Bario proclaims. "Classic Northern Italian cooking with big, satisfying tastes." And for little people, the children's menu offers entrees ranging from \$5 to \$7.

Dinner at Cibo e Gente, which opened in June, might begin with thin slices of raw beef "carpaccio" and pecorino romano cheese.

There's an authentic lasagna that incorporates a mix of veal, pork and beef layered with two sauces: a meaty bolognese and creamy bechamel. Bario covers a lobster tail with thin slices of potato then bakes it until its coating is brittle, and he serves a roast-

ed sea bass with black olives and capers in a light wine sauce that sounds identical to the fish I savored recently in Rome. Sigh.

On the dessert roundup, there's the unavoidable tiramisu and sorbet and more interesting items such as a dried apricot panna cotta (Italian custard) with caramel sauce, a dark chocolate cake and another cake with tart, moist, lemon-tinged tiers covered in meringue.

The setting is as unpretentious as the cuisine. Every chair and table in the 145-seat restaurant is mismatched; an open brick affords diners a view of the cooks at work; a garden in back makes a lovely spot to sip Prosecco; and when autumn crispens the air, logs will be thrown on the fireplace to warm you.

Cibo e Gente (174 Smith St. between Warren and Wyckoff streets in Boerum Hill) accepts cash only. Entrees: \$8.95-\$14.95. The restaurant serves dinner daily and brunch on weekends from 11 am to 5 pm. For reservations call (718) 501-1071.

— Tina Barry

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Where to Go

Sat, Sept 17

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BUS FEST: NY Transit Museum hosts its 15th annual bus festival. Guided tours of museum's vintage fleet of buses. Music, entertainment, children's activities, more. 10 am to 4 pm. Columbus Park, behind Brooklyn Borough Hall, Joralemon and Court streets. (718) 694-1639. Free.

HARVEST FAIR: Brooklyn Botanic Garden hosts its annual event. Celebrate the seasonal splendor with a day of music, dancing, film and workshops for adults and children. \$5, \$3 senior, free for children 16 and younger. Admission will be donated to the citizens of the Gulf Coast. Noon to 5 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7200.

HAWK DAY: Prospect Park Audubon Center hosts a day of everything related to hawks. Workshops in nature photography, craft projects, films and more. Noon to 5 pm. Audubon Center, at the Boathouse in Prospect Park. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3600. Free.

FARMHOUSE FUN: How to grow potatoes, carrots and pumpkins. Also, demos of cloth-making, arts and crafts and more. 1 pm to 4 pm. Enter Prospect Park at the Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard intersection. (718) 789-2822. Free.

GREENMARKET: Third annual produce market in Fort Greene Park. 3 am until park closes. DeKalb Avenue at Washington Park. (718) 907-4403.

OUTDOOR SCULPTURE SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Collective presents "Rapture," the 23rd annual outdoor show. 6:30 am to 8:30 pm. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, Dock and Main streets. (718) 295-2200. Free.

OLD TIME MUSIC: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts its eighth annual Park Slope Stringing and Old-Time Music Jam. Workshops in banjo, fiddle, bluegrass and old-time jamming. \$10, \$5 children. 12:30 pm to 10 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 955-8490.

OUTDOOR CONCERT: Second annual New Music Festival presents performances by Sonar at 1 pm, Paderosa at 2 pm, Schifano at 3 pm. Shrine for the Black Madonna at 4 pm and Burnt Sugar at 5 pm. Albert Spector Plaza at Fulton Street Mall. (718) 488-0000. Free.

PLAY OUTSIDE: "A Tale of Two Cities" by the author of "The Graveyard Book" and "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" will be read aloud to children. 2 pm to 5 pm. Enter Prospect Park at the Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard intersection. (718) 295-2200. Free.

COFFEE MUSIC: Brooklyn Gospel Extravaganza presents "Soulful Blue and Ensemble." 2 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

DANCE: Dancing in the Streets presents "Breaking Ground." Free NY choreographers were given five days to create a new site-specific work from scratch. 2 pm and 4 pm. Tobacco Warehouse, Empire Fulton Ferry Park, enter at Main and Dock streets, view dancing. Info: (718) 295-2200.

SHAKESPEARE ON THE ROOF: Rooftop performance of "Macbeth." \$15, \$3 children. Office Ops, 57 Thames St. (718) 418-2509.

DANCE: New York Dance Festival hosts its second annual Dance for Peace. 3 pm to 7 pm. After dance, celebration with yoga, live music, massages and more. Fort Greene Park, DeKalb Avenue and Washington Park entrance. Free.

THEATER: Brooklyn Music School presents "Amen Corner." \$25. 8 pm. 126 St. Felix St. (718) 400-8665.

MACBETH: Spoke the Hub presents "The Spoke Company in a performance of 'Macbeth.'" Play features an action-packed, foul and far rise and downfall of Shakespeare's classic. \$15, \$5 children and seniors. 8 pm. 748 Union St. (718) 408-3234.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: presents Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs." \$12, \$10 seniors. 8 pm. 20 Willow Place. (718) 237-2752.

OPERA: Chamber Opera presents a fully-staged production of Handel's "Acis and Galatea." \$20, \$15 seniors, children and students. 8 pm. South Oxford Square, 138 South Oxford St. (718) 596-3882.

MUSICAL: Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Theater presents "Unleashed." The "Laramie Project." \$15, \$8. 199 14th St. www.gallegrytheater.com. (718) 595-0547.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN KIDS' MUSEUM: hosts "Caribbean Beat." Enjoy a multi-performance from Claudia and Calypso band from Trinidad and Tobago. \$4 fee for members. 5 pm to 5 pm. 145 Brooklyn Park. (718) 735-4400.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "The Beast." "Beast and the Beast." \$8, \$7 children. Recommended for ages 4 and older. 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. 338 South Ave. at Fourth Street. (718) 965-3391.

OPEN HOUSE: Brooklyn Ave Exchange invites kids, ages 11 to 17, to meet the faculty and learn about the programs in theater. 2 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018. Free.

HEALTH FAIR: hosted by The Block Institute. 10 am to 4 pm. 2214 Stillwell Ave. (718) 966-5681.

FASHION MARKET: Brooklyn Designers Showcase features emerging designers of handcrafted merchandise. 10:30 am to 3 pm. 151 Montague St. (718) 726-7654.

PIE SOCIAL: Second annual Brooklyn Pie Social, sponsored by Baby's, to benefit the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy. 12 pm to 4 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park at Main and Plymouth streets. (718) 802-0003.

ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Collective hosts a group art show. Over 600 works by 120 artists on view. Noon to 6 pm. Red Hook Pier. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

BROOKLYN DOCKERS: Brooklyn Historical Society presents "Dockers Do It Right." Celebrating Brooklyn's Bay Water! Learn the history of small-scale construction. 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 634-4100.

GOURMET GARLIC: Floyd Bennett Garden Association offers a talk on the varieties of locally grown, fresh garlic, roasted garlic and garlic butter. 2 pm. Bay View Center, Floyd Bennett Field, located at southern end of Flatbush Avenue. Reservations required. (718) 338-3799. Free.

BAMCENIMATEK: presents "Notorious Duo: Notorious" (1966), directed by Alfred Hitchcock. \$10, \$7 students. 2 pm. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

WOMEN IN ISLAM: Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

RECEPTION: Group show of Venezuelan emerging artists working in New York. 6 pm to 9 pm. 237 Kent Ave. (718) 400-8665.

ROOFTOP PROGRAM: Office Ops hosts a festival of film and music featuring "The Human Story." Video artists and musicians explore topic. \$6, \$30 pm. Roof top of 57 Thames St. (718) 418-2509.

SSB REUNION: James Madison High School, class of 1950, re-meets. 7 pm to midnight. 914 Holiday Inn, Jamaica, N.Y. Call: (516) 944-0766.

DONATE SUPPLIES: State Sen. Martin Gorman offers a collecting emergency supplies for Gulf Coast residents. Items needed are bottled water, baby formula, bottled juice, clothing, towels, flash lights, batteries, first aid supplies and canned food. Drop in at 7403 Fifth Ave. (718) 238-0044.

SUN, SEPT 18

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS WALK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a tour of the north part of the neighborhood. Learn about the people, merchants, 50 seniors and students, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Meet on steps of Brooklyn Borough Hall. Court and

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

REMINDERS: (718) 788-8500.

LEAF LIFE: Urban Park Rangers hosts a talk about what life is like in the piles of leaves in Prospect Park. 11 am. Meet at Audubon Center in Prospect Park at 95 Prospect Park West at Fifth Street. (718) 965-8999. Free.

GREENWOOD TOUR: Take a tour of this cemetery and learn about its architecture, sculpture and history. Join: John Cashman leads tour. 10:15 members. 1 pm. 25th Street and Fifth Avenue. (718) 768-7200.

JAZZ: Jazz Showcase at The Water Street Restaurant. Diverse selections from Brooklyn's jazz community. No charge, but attendees are encouraged to donate to the Red Cross Hurricane Katrina disaster fund. Noon. 66 Water Street. (718) 966-5681.

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This year's theme is "Canines of the Caribbean." Noon to 5 pm. Parade begins in Fort Greene Park at corner of North First Street and Wythe Avenue. Williamsburg. Parade travels one mile to McCann Park, site of show. Dogs are encouraged to attend in costume. Enter competitions for a small fee. (718) 486-7489. Free.

EXHIBIT: Brooklyn artists are invited to display work at no cost, at the first annual East Midwood Jewish Center Open House. 10% of sale proceeds is requested as donation. Noon to 5 pm. 145 Ocean Ave. (718) 338-3800. Free.

ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Collective hosts a group art show. Over 600 works by 120 artists on view. Noon to 6 pm. Red Hook Pier. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

INTERFAITH GATHERING: Fourth annual New York round table discussion, hosted by The Dialogue Project. 1:30 pm. Grace Church, 284 Hicks St. (718) 624-1850.

FARMERS' MARKET: at Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum. 1 pm to 4 pm. Also, gardening workshop "Permaculture Design." 2 pm to 4 pm. 3816 Clarendon Road. www.wyckofffarmhouse.org. (718) 629-5400. Free.

DIALOGUE: Grace Episcopal Church presents a talk, "Jerusalem, Justice and Risks." 7:30 pm. 254 Hicks St. between Joralemon Street and Grace Court.

OPEN HOUSE: Brooklyn Queens Conservatory of Music hosts an open house. 2 pm to 5 pm. 254 Hicks St. (718) 624-1850.

CHORAL LITURGICAL: St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Church hosts the priest of the New Angels Adoration on the 25th anniversary of her ordination. 4 pm. 307 Smith St. (718) 832-2310. Free.

SHORTS: Brooklyn Arts Festival presents an evening of short films. 5:10, 7 pm. Line up proceeds screening. 227 Fourth Avenue. www.brooklynartsfestival.com. (718) 627-4816.

CAFE STENOGRAPH: Hit the movies with a screening of "Guest Who's Coming to Dinner" (1967). 10:30 pm. No cover. 422 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street. (718) 360-7776. Free.

Mon, Sept 19

HOUSING TALK: Gowanus Canal Community Development Corp. hosts a talk, "Bay Ridge Housing Development." 3 pm. 315 Court St. (718) 854-0257. Free.

OPEN STUDIO: Kiki, ages 7 to 10, are invited to try a yoga class. 3:45 pm to 4:30 pm. 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Enter on Sept. 26, 732A Canal St., between 4th and Seventh avenues. (718) 499-7282. Free.

BAMCENIMATEK: presents "Thy Girls and Outlets: Nicholas Ray." 7:30 pm. "Party Girl" (1958). \$10, \$7 students. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

PUBLIC HEARING: Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy hosts a hearing for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Brooklyn Bridge Park. 5 pm to 9 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507.

TRAVELING CINEMA: Barbara Bar screens the silent film "The Flamingo Girl" (1928). 7 pm. 376 Ninth St. (718) 288-1761. Free.

WEDDING PHOTOS WANTED: Prospect Park Picnic House celebrates its restoration and reopening and invites those who married in the Picnic House to bring wedding photos to the exhibit. "Picnic Perfect at the Prospect Park Picnic House." Long Meadow, Prospect Park.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to Go**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 424, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

Enter park at 95 Prospect Park West at Fifth Street. Noon to 1 pm. (718) 965-8999.

BEER DEBATE: The Fort Greene Association presents incumbent Mary Markowski and Borough President challenger Gloria Mattoni. Gary Kaplan and Thelma Altman in a debate. 7:30 pm. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford St. (718) 675-1850. Free.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: Salt Marsh Nature Center begins its Monday, Tuesday, Friday program for kids, ages 11 to 13 pm to 2 pm. Marine Park, Avenue U and East 53rd Street. Call for fee info and to register. (718) 421-2021.

TUES, SEPT 20

CREDIT REPAIR: Church Avenue Merchants Block Association offers a talk on money management and credit repair. 10 am to 4 pm. Pre-registration required. 884 Flatbush Ave. corner of Church Avenue. (718) 287-2600. Free.

METRO CARD SALES: Reduced Fare Metro Cards available for sale at Kings Plaza Shopping Mall. Outreach van parked at the mall from 11 am to 2 pm. Avenue U and Flatbush Avenue. Call for eligibility requirements. (212) 638-7022.

MEETING: AARP of Bay Ridge meets. 2:30 pm. Shore Hill Towers, 9030 Shore Road. (718) 748-9114. Free.

RECEPTION: The Schaller Gallery presents a faculty exhibit. 4 pm to 6 pm. 200 Wiloughby Ave. (718) 634-3471. Free.

OUTDOOR VOLUNTEERS: Prospect Park Conservancy hosts a day of outdoor work, including weeding, mulching, and in other. 9 am to 12 pm. Prospect Park, 95 Prospect Park West at Fifth Street. (718) 965-8999. Free.

BROOKLYN NINE: Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, presents Borough President Mark Mattoni and "Brooklyn Nine" anthology editor Tim McLaughlin a meeting of "Brooklyn Nine 2," a collection of stories about Brooklyn neighborhoods. 7 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BAMCENIMATEK: presents "Double Dutch: It's Been A Lovely Day" (1993). \$10, \$7 students. 7 pm. Q&A with Joe De Lauro. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

MEETING: 68th Precinct hosts a talk, "Safe Haven Program." Guest speakers are State Sen. Martin Gorman and also co-chairman of the Bay Ridge District Heights Safe Haven Program. 7:30 pm. 333 68th St. (718) 493-4228. Free.

WEDS, SEPT 21

GARDEN PARTY: Food, music and dancing at the American Legion. 55, 11 am to 3 pm. Bay Ridge Center hosts event. 345 78th St. (718) 748-0500.

BAMCENIMATEK: presents "Cinema Today." Today: "Am Cuba." The "Night of the Living Dead." 7:30 pm. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

RECEPTION: Table Rasa Gallery presents its exhibit "Paper Cuts," featuring artists working with torn and cut paper. 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 224 48th St. (718) 768-0325. Free.

CEP MEETING: Community Board 7 hosts a presentation by the Department of Transportation on the Hamilton Avenue Bridge. 4:30 pm. 4201 Fourth Ave. (718) 854-0003. Free.

READING: Maggid Books, author and storyteller specializing in Mysticism and Hasidic stories and Rabbi David Pinnus, are guest speakers. 7 pm to 9 pm. Congregation B'nai Avraham, 117 Berman St. (718) 596-6860. Free.

PRESENTATION: The Prospect Park Alliance presents the renovation plan for Eastern Parkway's median from Washington Avenue to Flatbush Street. Discussion to follow. 7:30 pm. Lobby of 135 Eastern Parkway. Free.

MEETING: Bay Ridge Historical Society meets. 7:30 pm. Shore Hill Towers, 9030 Shore Road. (718) 748-9098. Free.

JAZZ: Brooklyn Jazz Series presents The Marcus Slinebaugh Quartet. 8 pm. The Water Street Restaurant's Under Water Lounge. 46 Water St. Call for cover charge. (718) 625-9352.

THURS, SEPT 22

MEETING: Self Help for the Hard of Hearing meets. 1:30 pm. Shore Hill Towers, 9030 Shore Road. (718) 748-9098. Free.

THEATER: Magis Theater Company performs outside. 6 pm. Sunset Park, enter park between 41st and 44th streets, Fifth and Seventh avenues. www.play-outside.org. Free.

BACKSTAGE TOUR: Brooklyn College. Continued on page 11...

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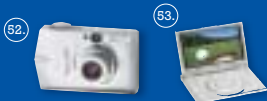
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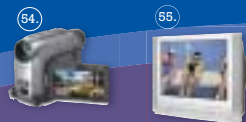
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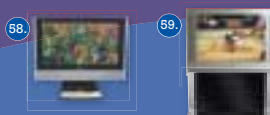
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57. TaylorMade r7 Quad HT Driver
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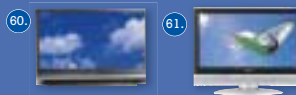
\$25,000

58. Panasonic 22" HD 16:9
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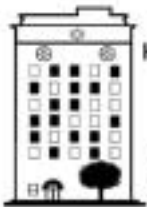
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RATNER...

Continued from page 1

both for and against Ratner's plan.

The only MTA board member to question the deal at the hearing was Mitchell Pally, a Suffolk county appointee.

Pally said he was baffled that the board didn't insist on getting more money, or arrange a deal whereby Ratner had to pay the full price up front. His comment led to a heated exchange with MTA Chairman Peter Kalikow.

"I'm not going to be subject to what an appraiser says. This is the deal on the table," Kalikow shot back.

Pally also questioned why the MTA was making its own transaction contingent upon the actions of other state authorities.

"Why is the MTA making closing contingent on these other bodies?" asked Pally. "We don't know when this sale will close. It could be two years, it could be five years, it could be 10 years," he said, pointing out that the MTA faces incredible demands in their current capital budget.

Kalikow argued that Forest City Ratner would be spending its own money on a public railway that would be made state-of-the-art.

To that, Pally noted, "The MTA, alone, would never have built any modifications to the Atlantic Yards," and said he'd looked at the 20-year projected needs assessment for the agency, which mentioned nothing about upgrading the Long Island Rail Road yards at Atlantic Avenue.

"The rail yard works fine the way it is. Forest City Ratner money is not being used to substitute for projects the LIRR wants to do," Pally said. "We're now going to spend money on projects we don't want to do, never wanted to do and don't need! It makes no sense."

After the vote, Borough President Marty Markowitz issued a written statement in which he predicted that Atlantic Yards "will be something that everyone, even those who may now oppose it, ultimately will see the great benefit of."

Opponents saw the MTA's decision as a commitment to cronyism over improved transit services, and criticized the board for accepting what was deemed as a "low-ball bid."

"The MTA and Ratner have treated taxpayers with disdain and have ignored the desires of the community," said Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn, which opposes the Ratner project and its dependence on the potential use of eminent domain seizures of private property.

"We know Ratner stands to make a huge profit on this project, something on the order of \$1 billion, yet he is determined to rip off the straphangers of by nickel-and-dime them," he said.

At a July hearing, after Forest City Ratner made a \$50 million bid that was trumped by a \$150 million bid by Extell Development Company, Ratner doubled his price during exclusive negotiations with the MTA that did not allow participation by Extell.

In a statement Wednesday, Extell spokesman Bob Liff said, "Extell is disappointed that the MTA took the lower bid for the Vanderbilt Yards. Our bid still stands, and we hope the community is given an opportunity to fully participate in the process."

Forest City Ratner officials did not return repeated calls for comment.

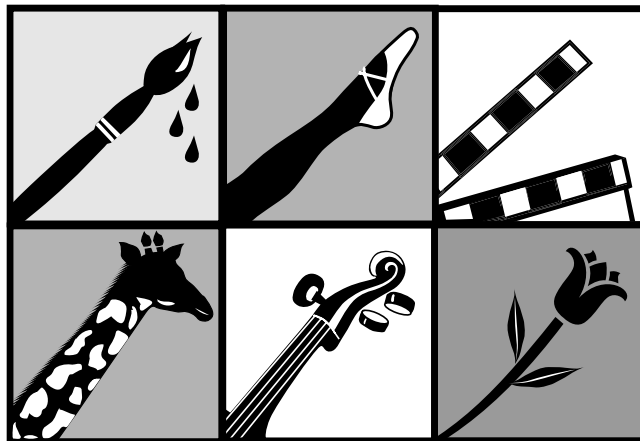
Bertha Lewis, executive director of the Alliance of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), which is involved in the affordable housing component in the Ratner plan, celebrated the MTA decision. "It's a win," she said. "I love it."

"[Pally] certainly put some thought into it and I think it's great he did," Lewis said. "But in the end, I'm very happy the board made the decision it did."

A study released by the city's Independent Budget Office last week determined the development plan for the arena to bring \$1 million a year in revenues over 30 years.



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CONEY...

Continued from page 1

ated to preserving Coney Island's History, were among the speakers at the event.

The \$83.2 million facility, which officials plan to complete by 2009, will include improved entertainment attractions, development of a multicultural community center with job training and recreational facilities and an increase in the number of affordable housing units on vacant city-owned property in the area.

"Coney Island is an icon in New York City," said the mayor. Some of the highlights of the

blueprint for Coney Island's future include:

- The transformation of Stillwell Avenue into Stillwell Midway, a grand public open space connecting existing amusement areas with new development.

- A redesigned Steeplechase Plaza incorporating new open space around the iconic Parachute Jump between Keyspan Park and the boardwalk.

- New entertainment uses and retail amenities east of Keyspan Park intended to support the existing amusement attractions.

- More year-round activity on Surf Avenue including the possible addition of a hotel and spa.
- Improving both Surf and Mermaid avenues.

- Enhanced boardwalk activity with added cultural activities, changing facilities and connections to the beach and boardwalk, which will become Parachute Pavilion.

- Better integration of the new development with the adjacent amusement area.

- Improvement of the area's parking and transit infrastructure.

The CDC will be working out zoning strategies and guidelines with the Department of City Planning, as part of the next step of the process.

"For future generations of Brooklynites, the best days are yet to come," said Markowitz, adding that as a boy, Coney Island was his playground.

Among the crowd gathered on the boardwalk were several skeptical Coney Islanders, such as Luz Mejias and Cathy Phillips, who expressed fear that the new development might increase the rents and force out local residents and small businesses that are already there.

"I am concerned with where I live," said Phillips. "How affordable will the rent be in the new affordable housing?"

"The rents will rise," said Mejias. "It's happening already."

MET'TECH...

Continued from page 1

blackout, when 911 call centers were often unreachable and overloaded, and a March 26, 2004 incident when a Verizon technician accidentally misrouted connections in Downtown Brooklyn and 911 callers in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island were met with busy signals for two hours.

Sources at the mayor's office said this week the project would move the dispatch and call-taking functions of the EMS, NYPD and FDNY, which are currently housed in each borough, to the new Metrotech facility. The move would increase the workforce of callers and dispatchers, who work in shifts, by 1,800 in

Downtown Brooklyn.

The entire system is comprised of 60,000 people who work in the city's public safety agencies.

The emergency agencies currently have separated dispatch centers that work on different computer systems and in different boroughs, but the new system, which must have "excellent" radio and microwave transmission and reception, will be in strategic proximity to 11 Metrotech.

Currently, fire dispatchers have bases in all five boroughs, while EMS has only one, in Downtown Brooklyn. Inquiries to the NYPD were not returned by press time.

According to an April 2004 article in the New York Times, in order for emergency responders themselves to communicate during an emergency across agencies, they must at times dial into the 911 system.

Each year, the 911 system handles 12 million calls, the article reported.

The plan is to consolidate eight call centers into one Metrotech headquarters in order to streamline the computer and call systems across agencies.

The project is still so new, very few know about it.

The project is still so new, very few know about it. The project is still so new, very few know about it. The project is still so new, very few know about it.

wide Statement of Needs.

The board has expressed concern about being overburdened by emergency response headquarters, seen as potential terror targets, with six new facilities planned for the district—including a high-security research and bio-terrorism laboratory, the new OEM headquarters and new centralized offices for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene—which is already home to the 911 call center and with the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges.

The city contends that the new development would be highly secured and protected from easy collapse in the event of a disaster, citing onsite backup power, additional facilities around the city that could be utilized for dispatch and call-taking in an emergency, and a soon-to-follow second PSAC location.



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The Brooklyn Papers PARENT

Brooklynite's tips on tending to baby

Q: My husband and I have a 7-week-old son, our first child. He refuses to sleep anywhere but in our arms. If we set him down after he falls asleep, he wakes up promptly and starts crying. We usually pick him up the minute he starts crying. Sometimes we try to tough it out, but he continues to cry even after 15 minutes. Can a baby this young be spoiled simply by being held too much?

—Sleep-Deprived
A: Focus on attaching to your baby and responding to his cries right away.

Your baby is trying to communicate something with his cries, but what? Maybe he's only in a light sleep when you put him down, and needs a few more minutes to get into a deeper sleep. Are his hands and feet cold, or is he bundled too warmly? Is he hungry or over-stimulated?

"Here's an important principle: Newborns cannot be spoiled," says Ina Bransome of Brooklyn, N.Y., a new parent mentor. "Newborn humans really do depend for their very survival on a close bodily connection with a willing caregiver."

As a certified postpartum doula, Bransome specializes in helping new parents in the first weeks of their baby's life. Hold your baby upright and

Parent-to-Parent

the baby has gas or gets started awake when he goes from Mom or Dad's arms to his crib. Warm his bed with a hot water bottle, she suggests, before placing the baby in it.

A reader disapproves with the notion that babies cannot be spoiled and speaks for "cry-it-out" advocates: "Yes, even a baby that young can learn how to get Mom to pick him up. When my daughter was only three weeks old, she would cry uncontrollably when I put her down to sleep at night."

Her pediatrician told her to let her daughter cry until she went to sleep so she would learn as she put them down.

Many years ago, I still clearly remember how awfully hard it was to hear my baby cry and not pick her up. But after only two nights, we never had the problem again," the Georgia mother says.

Other ideas from parents and grandmothers:
• "The baby may have acid reflux. His play was anything but average. Projected as a backup outfielder when the year began, Holden soon earned a starting job in center field, and later in left."

Nicknamed Wantagh Joe, for his Long Island hometown, Holden hit .291 and stole 22 bases (third in the league), and improved his standing in the Mets organization.

If we were so inclined, Holden could win another award as matinee idol of the year, based on an unscientific study that took note of the constant female screaming when he was at bat. He could win another award as best semi-local talent on Brooklyn.

But one award is enough already for this talented, handsome, Long Island "shrimp."

The Joisy Guy Award: Hey, doesn't Jersey shore guy Bruce Springsteen sing "Jersey Days?" And Hoboken's Frank Sinatra did a haunting rendition of "There Used to Be a Ballpark." Jackie Robinson played his first minor league game in Jersey City, and Dodgers Don Newcombe and Ducky Medwick were both Jersey guys.

So, in honor of Joisy guy Bobby Ojeda, the Cyclones' pitching coach in 2001-2002, and Harold Eckert, an 11-game winner for the inaugural Cyclones, we honor Joe D'Alessandro, right-handed relief pitcher from Glassboro in South Jersey. Joe had a record of 1-2 with a 5.14 ERA and two saves.

Honorable mention: Cyclones PA announcer Dom Alagia, from the Jersey

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—a grandmother
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Now for the 2005 Clonies

THERE IS NOTHING like a Clonie Award — the annual end-of-season award presented by The Brooklyn Papers to a deserving Cyclone or a personage associated with Brooklyn baseball.

To most, a Clonie is better than a Oscar, Emmy, Tony, Grammy or even — dare I say it — an American Music Award.

Why? Well, for one thing, there are no awards ceremonies filled with gushing winners. The season is over, so the winners are already home, where they can gush quietly and thank their relatives in person, without worry that the music will come up, drowning them out and forcing them off the stage. And to win a Clonie, one must actually do something well — and do it right the first time. There is no song dubbing, no re-takes of scenes, no magical recording devices and no special effects. And so, absent undue ado, the envelopes please:

Statue of Liberty Upraised Throwing Arm Award: Catcher Drew Butera wins this one, because of talent, a dad who wore the tools of ignorance, and good genes.

Butera owes a debt to his dad, who, as Hall of Fame receiver Yogi Berra would say, "Learned him his experience." The senior Butera, Sal, played nine years in the majors as a catcher for a variety of teams, and he stuck around because of his defense. Sal passed those lessons on to his son, who was a shortstop as a youth, but began wearing the catching gear when he was in his teens.

Drew's genes also include relatives in Brooklyn, which can't hurt.

The stats? Drew Butera threw out 29 of 62 attempted base stealers.

The Jumbo Shrimp Ozymorion Award: Joe Holden is this year's under-6-foot player who plays really big.

Holden is 5-foot-11, a rather average size for a civilian, but his play was anything but average. Projected as a backup outfielder when the year began, Holden soon earned a starting job in center field, and later in left.

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Honorable mention: Cyclones PA announcer Dom Alagia, from the Jersey

shore, for his now Brooklyn-correct pronunciation of Norwood Avenue.

The No relation to Mel Parnell Sleeper Award: Mel Parnell was a great Boston Red Sox left-hander who was 123-75 lifetime in 10 big-league seasons.

Bobby Parnell, no relation, was a not-so-great college pitcher. The right-hander was 1-6 with a 6.82 ERA as a sophomore at Charleston Southern University. As a junior

The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

there, his record was 3-5 with an ERA of 8.86.

But let's give the Mets credit on this one. Parnell, who was an infielder in high school, was a late-bloomer and someone in the Mets scouting staff recognized that, because Parnell was picked in the ninth round of the 2005 draft.

Under the tutelage of Cyclones pitching coach Steve Merriman, Parnell had only a 2-3 record this season, but his minuscule ERA of 1.73 led the league. Often Parnell would pitch great, but the Cyclones would lose.

Maybe next year we'll give a Bobby Parnell Clonie Award to the player whose performance is the biggest surprise of the year, based on previous stats.

The Man Who Came to Dinner Award: Robert Palko came to the Cyclones early in the season on injury rehab, and he was supposed to be in Brooklyn for only a few relief appearances.

But as Palko's time on the injury rehab list kept getting extended, people kept saying goodbye to him, only to see him back the next week.

Finally, in late August, it became apparent that the Mets were going to leave Palko in Brooklyn for the season — but you never know, and Cyclones fans were still constantly checking to see if Palko was still around.

Palko, who pitched for the Cyclones in 2003 and 2004, is a fan favorite for his engaging personality, and after a 4-0 record with an ERA of 0.95 this season, he'll probably get that promotion he so desperately wants — and deserves.

The Ageist Award: The only no-brainer this year, the Ageist Award honors any player who clearly has no respect for octogenarians and above.

On June 29, 2005, at Keyspan Park, 128-year-old Moonlight Graham (or a reasonable facsimile) came out of a cloud of smoke in center field to get his at-bat, after a hundred years of waiting on the bench. Picking this was this year's award winner, Steve Merriman.

Graham appeared somewhat rusty as a batter and Merriman, using fastballs, worked the count to 1-1 before catcher Drew Butera signaled for a brush-back pitch. Merriman, showing some compassion, refused to deck a centenarian-plus hitter.

Instead, Merriman promptly moved down Graham with more fastballs, quickly striking him out.

Merriman gets his Clonie for bearing down, striking out Graham, and showing that if you have a dream — as did Moonlight Graham — don't wait a hundred years to get it done.

SI's Baby Bombers march on

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

The major league Yankees are struggling for their playoff life while the minor league Yankees of Staten Island have already advanced to the New York-Penn League's Championship Series.

Kyle Anson sent a two-run blast over the wall in right at Staten Island for a walk-off homer to give the Yankees a 5-3 victory over the Williamsport Crosscutters in the final game of a best-of-three series Monday night.

The Staten Islanders were set to face the Auburn Doubledays, an affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays, in the Championship Series beginning on Sept. 14 in Auburn.

Game Two of the series was scheduled at Staten Island on Sept. 15, and the third game, if necessary, would have been on Staten Island on Sept. 16.

The Richmond County Bank Ballpark, at St. George, next to the Staten Island Ferry terminal.

The Hagerstown Suns, the Mets' farm team up the ladder from Brooklyn, advanced this week to the Championship Series in the South Atlantic League, splitting the two games of their best-of-five series against the Kannapolis (North Carolina).

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Engagement & Wedding Announcements

ENGAGEMENTS

Franco – Ramirez

Vanessa Franco, 23, and Jonathan Ramirez, 32, plan to be married by Father McGillicuddy on June 23, 2006, at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Basilica in Sunset Park.

The reception will be at the Riviera in Coney Island.

The bride-to-be's mother is Rosaura Nieto, of Sunset Park. Franco attended Bishop Ford High School (class of 2000) and earned her degree in Public Affairs from Baruch College in 2004.

She currently works as a medical secretary.

The groom-to-be is the son of Irene and Jose Ramirez of Sunset Park. He grew up in Park Slope, attended John Jay High School (class of 1991) and St. John's University, graduating in 1996. He is employed as an investment banker in Raleigh, North Carolina, where the couple is currently living.

How did you meet?

The bride-to-be says: "At the 2000 Halloween Parade in Manhattan. We ran into each other four times in the huge crowd before we exchanged telephone numbers. Neither one of us was in costume, either!"

Who proposed, and how?

The bride-to-be says: "Jonathan proposed to me in his car in January after I picked out the engagement ring."

Concerns about the wedding:

The bride-to-be says: "The entire event is a concern! I will be planning a wedding in Brooklyn from North Carolina. It will be hard flying back and forth to take care of things."



WEDDINGS

Hafferty – Fischer

Evelyn Hafferty, 28, and Joshua Ethan Fischer, 29, were married on May 5, 2005, at the Brooklyn Supreme Court, in an intimate ceremony with their immediate family in attendance. Judge Gerald Held officiated. The reception was held at Jolie restaurant in Boorum Hill.

The bride is the daughter of John and Jean Hafferty of Rutland, Mass. Hafferty attended Wachusett Regional High School in Holden, Mass., class of 1995, and Syracuse University, graduating in 1999. She is currently self-employed as a design consultant and freelance writer.

The groom is the son of Sharron Fischer Commack, N.Y., and the late Sam Fischer, of Brooklyn. Fischer grew up in Canarsie and attended Edward R. Murrow High School, class of 1994, then went on to SUNY Bing-

hamton, graduating in 1998, and the University of Pennsylvania in 2005. He is pursuing a doctorate in medicine.

The couple currently resides in Baltimore, Md.

About the wedding:

The bride says: "We were very fortunate. The day we were married was absolutely gorgeous weather-wise and we couldn't have asked for a more perfect day. We chose 05/05/05 because we loved the date — doesn't come around very often. And heck, being Cinco de Mayo, we figured at least in the future we could always look forward to Mexican food, beer and festivities on our anniversary — whether we remember it or not!"

"Josh and I were married by a judge at Brooklyn Supreme Court because we come from inter-religious backgrounds."

"After the ceremony, we went to the Brooklyn Heights promenade for photos by Adrienne Deppe. Twenty family members and intimate friends attended the ceremony. Afterwards, we dined at Jolie Restaurant."

"Thanks to the lovely weather, we were able to eat out on the back deck at the restaurant. The wooden deck is surrounded by a warm orange painted fence, and flowers adorned the area in abundance."

"We feasted on vegetable terrine, warm goat cheese salad, and vichyssoise as appetizers, and for the main course, grilled vegetables with celery root, hangar steak with frites, ravioli de royan, and tilapia with ginger and scallion soy sauce. Dessert was exquisite, with a choice between the flourless chocolate cake and warm apple tart."



"[Owner] Benjamin Tietout was wonderful to work with, very accommodating. The staff at the restaurant was incredible and made our experience absolutely wonderful."

"Honestly, I can't say enough good things about our experience at Jolie. I really hope this restaurant continues to thrive. It's a gem!"

Where did you honeymoon?

The bride says: "We went on a honeymoon in Vermont and stayed in a chalet at Okemo Mountain. We got to go hiking and do some sightseeing in the off-season."

Visit www.TheBrooklynBride.com to submit your wedding or engagement announcement. Announcements are run on a space available basis. Our next issue is Oct. 22.

And the winners are...

Brown and Henning from Cobble Hill

Talley Henning, 29, and Eric Brown, 37, are the August winners of The Brooklyn Bride cruise-a-month giveaway, sponsored by Michael C. Fina. The Cobble Hill couple plan to be married in a civil ceremony on May 13, 2006, under a big Banyan tree on Isla Verde, in Puerto Rico. They expect 100 guests to join them at the El San Juan Hotel.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Linda Bruce and the late E.J. Bruce, of Colorado Springs, Colo. She attended Palmer High School in Colorado Springs, class of 1994, and Western State College of Colorado, graduating magna cum laude in 1997 with a degree in English and Theater. She currently works at the Columbia Universi-

ty bookstore.

The groom-to-be is the son of Antoinette and William Brown of Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. He attended St. Joseph's Regional High School in Montvale, class of 1986, and Pratt Institute. He graduated from Pratt in 1992 with a degree in architecture and is currently employed as a graphic designer.

How did you meet?

The groom-to-be says: "We actually met online at Salon.com. We had been e-mailing each other a lot, as friends. (We were both dating other people at that time.) But [we] decided to meet before Talley left to spend a year in China, teaching English. While she was in Chi-



Eric Brown and Talley Henning with their prize.

na, we corresponded like crazy, over 500 pages! I went to visit her after she was gone about eight months and things developed between us at that point. When she returned to the U.S., she moved in, and never left."

Who proposed, and how?

The groom-to-be says: "I did. It was a few months after she came back. We had been at a New Year's party in 2002, and when we came home, I proposed in the living room, on bended knee."

Concerns about the wedding?

The bride-to-be says: "The main thing we are worried about is, will everyone come to Puerto Rico? With gas prices rising, plane fares will go up too. But all my other planning has been really easy."

www.TheBrooklynBride.com

The Brooklyn Bride

Sponsored by MICHAEL C. FINA

The Brooklyn Bride

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Setting your sites

Brooklyn's alternative wedding venues make for an event your guests will actually remember

By Erin Marie Daly
for The Brooklyn Papers

Sometimes it's hard to be unique — especially when planning your wedding. If the thought of hosting your big event in a catering hall like everybody else makes you cringe, consider Brooklyn's bevy of off-the-beaten path venues that, with a little imagination, are wedding sites waiting to happen.

For hopeless romantics, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden provides the ultimate dreamy setting for a picturesque wedding amidst flowers, the faint buzzing of cicadas and — yes, in Brooklyn — butterflies. Spanning 52 acres in the heart of the borough, the Botanic Garden offers three spaces for weddings, each uniquely beautiful in its own way. And there's a karmic perk: the Botanic Garden is a non-profit cultural institution, so all the money poured into your special event will benefit not only you and your guests, but a worthy cause.

Appreciate the Old World charm and recall the elegant simplicity of the Italianate Osborne Garden, the largest of the three sites, and the most formal. The sprawling 30,000-square-foot expanse of lawn provides ample room for larger parties, headed by a gray stone fountain and lined by cone-shaped evergreens. This garden's singular beauty lies in the subtlety of its varying shades of green, carefully perfected by horticulturists and maintained throughout the seasons.

In the springtime, azaleas and rhododendrons add brilliant reds to the color scheme, while purple wisteria hangs from the stone columns bordering the lawn.

And it's not just for weddings — lovers should consider the Osborne Garden's "whispering benches" for proposals.

Those with a penchant for tranquility will find the perfect wedding venue in the Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden, a quiet enclosure designed to mirror nature. A serene pond is surrounded by winding walkways and stepping stones, while a wooden tea house overlooks the water.

Squat, pruned shrubbery lines the path to a hill bordering the pond, where a mini amphitheater provides the ideal setting for an intimate ceremony with breathtaking views.

Spring brings pink cherry blossoms; by autumn, those blossoms give way to autumn leaves. (In fact, it's recommended that those planning spring and summer weddings book well in advance.)

For an old-fashioned, romantic wedding, the Cranford Rose Garden provides 5,000 fragrant, elegant roses and a raised, white, latticed pavilion.

"The best month for weddings in this garden is June," Sofia Cahalquinto, public affairs coordinator for the Brooklyn

Botanic Garden, told GO Brooklyn. "The roses are spectacular then, and the garden looks like it was made for hosting a wedding." The blooms line a rectangular space perfect for guests to lazily stroll, surrounded by colors and scents, and the gazebo-style pavilion, washed in sunshine and laced by climbing rose vines, provides a charming ceremony space.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Palm House, a sprawling Victorian-style conservatory with ceiling-to-floor windows, offers catered receptions (up to 400 people for cocktail receptions and up to 300 people for dinner and dancing) through its in-house catering company, Charles, Sally & Charles.

Daytime catering fees for Charles, Sally & Charles range from \$110-\$120 per person; evening catering fees range from \$140-\$160 per person (excluding tax and gratuity).

Daytime location fees for any event in the Palm House are \$2,000, Monday-Friday, and \$2,500 on weekends and holidays. Evening location fees are \$3,000 Monday-Friday and \$4,000 weekends and holidays. The rental fee for the gardens is \$350 for up to 50 people; \$5 for each additional person, with a 60-person limit.

Additional fees: photography fee (includes security guard) of \$250 for up to 20 people; \$5 additional fee per person with no limit; no charge for children under 16.

Play ball!

If all this romance is too much for you, there are plenty of wedding venues on the lighter side — this is Brooklyn, after all. Do you and your beloved love baseball? How about getting hitched at the home of the Brooklyn Cyclones? Opened in 2001, Keyspan Park offers the perfect mixture of kitsch and cute for two sports fans in love, and this Coney Island stadium can accommodate parties large and small.

Hardcore fans can rent the Party Deck during the season (mid-June through mid-September), with panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Manhattan skyline in the distance, and Astroland Amusement Park looming over left field and the boardwalk to the right. The space includes picnic tables and two rows of balcony seating, and there's plenty of room to mix and mingle.

Or opt for the Luxury Suites, where guests can kick back in a climate-controlled lounge or enjoy two rows of outdoor balcony seating. For bigger crowds, the entire facility can be rented on non-game days — complete with tents set up on the field. Events can also be held in the Brooklyn Baseball Gallery, the park's museum dedicated to the history of baseball in Brooklyn, surrounded by memorabilia and exhibits.

"We can easily accommodate parties



(Top) The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has several areas that make breathtaking backdrops for ceremonies, including the Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden. (Above) The Brooklyn Academy of Music, and its in-house caterer Great Performances, will treat your wedding like one of their productions.

of up to 500," said Steve Cohen, Keyspan Park manager and Cyclones general manager. Just make sure your guests bring sunscreen and windbreakers; the stadium gets its fair share of sunshine and ocean breezes.

The Party Deck holds up to 100 people and costs \$2,500 per night, which includes 100 tickets, group recognition on the ballpark's video scoreboard, a variety of specialized menus provided by Aramark (food and beverage costs not included in rental fee), and valet service. The Luxury Suites cost \$1,000-\$1,500 per night and include 18 tickets, group scoreboard recognition, a variety of specialized menus (food and beverage costs not included in rental fee) and valet service.

Events held in the Brooklyn Baseball Gallery are \$250 for the first hour and \$150 for each additional hour. Or opt for the \$750 flat rate (includes 90-minute pre-game party and 40 box seats), or \$600 flat rate (includes 90-minute pre-game party and 40 bleacher seats). Additional fees can be purchased at regular ticket rates; food and beverages are not included in the rental fees.

Field rental with tent setup varies depending on how elaborate the event is, according to general manager Steve Cohen.

For more information about catering possibilities or restrictions, contact the Aramark Sales Office at Keyspan Park at (718) 266-7741.

Be a star

Culture-minded couples should consider hosting their wedding in King's County's most illustrious performing arts center, the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), where custom-made weddings are treated as technically as a Broadway show.

"For us, everything is a production," said Mario LaMothe, assistant general manager of BAM. "And your wedding is a production, too."

The seating capacity for non-theatrical events at BAM's Leperq Space is 150, but up to 400 people can be accommodated with standing room. How-

ever, most wedding parties here cap out at around 180 people; beyond that, said LaMothe, space for a dance floor is limited.

This Fort Greene institution's restaurant and banquet facility includes theatrical lighting, sound and video systems and is located above BAM's grand lobby, where most couples opt to have their ceremony. Receptions are catered by BAM's in-house catering company, Great Performances, in the second floor's BAMcafe. But weddings can also take place in BAM's dance studios, stages and other public spaces, according to LaMothe.

"We work in production, so we pay attention to your event," said LaMothe. "We advise you, but we give the detailed-oriented person a chance to have their say, and every detail is met."

Brooklynites on a budget also benefit from hosting their weddings here; BAM offers a whopping 50 percent discount on the rental fee to Brooklyn residents. (That discount does not apply to the cost of labor, which is provided in-house by BAM and prospective renters should take note that the space is offered as-is, with the labor comprising the bulk of the expenses.) Another perk: if the festivities end early, BAM will refund the fee for unused booked time.

"We budget to the hour," advised LaMothe. "We don't pad our charges." And like the Botanic Garden, BAM is a nonprofit organization, so couples can feel good about giving back to the performing arts world while indulging themselves and their guests.

The rental fee is \$1,500 per day for non-residents; \$750 per day for Brooklyn residents. Additional fees: in-house labor fee (varies, ranging from \$2,200 to \$5,000, according to LaMothe).

Catering must be provided by Great Performances; call (212) 727-2424 or visit www.greatperformances.com for more information. Prices start at \$125 per person, which includes menu, but, labor and does not include the cost of decor or equipment.



Picnic House un-veiled

On Sept. 19 the Prospect Park Alliance will celebrate the renovation of one of its wedding venues: the Picnic House.

After 14 months and \$3 million of improvements to the 77-year-old, two-story brick building's roof, floor, lighting, ventilation system, bathrooms, landscape and catering facilities, the Alliance invites all of those brides and grooms who have been married at the site to bring their photos, their favorite wedding songs and their wed-

ding traditions to a ribbon cutting and reception at noon in the Picnic House, located behind Litchfield Villa, across the Park Drive, on a knoll overlooking the Long Meadow.

"It's the perfect-sized space that can be used in any number of interesting ways," explained Prospect Park Administrator Tupper Thomas of the site, which accommodates 175 guests for a seated dinner and dancing.

The cost to rent the Picnic

House begins at \$4,000 for an 8-hour block which includes tables, chairs, upright piano and security; catering fees are additional and caterers must be chosen from the Alliance's list of approved businesses. For information about renting the house, visit "Event Planning" on the Web site www.prospectpark.org or call (718) 267-6215. To RSVP to the reception and share your Picnic House wedding memories and photos, e-mail epatron@prospectpark.org — Lisa J. Curtis